Death March kara Hajimaru Isekai Kyousoukyoku

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Novel Updates

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16-1. Effect of Slaying Demon Lord

Satou here. Somehow or other, there are times when you just don't know how to react when people valuate you excessively aren't there.



"We're gonna visit Tenion Temple after greeting the king in the capital."

After breakfast in the Solitary Island Palace, I told everyone the plan while enjoying the tea Lulu made.

I want to ask the previous Tenion head miko to see if there's a way to communicate with gods.

"Then, I think it might be better to have the airship get down at Pendragon mansion once or go around a lap in the capital's sky instead of directly going to the castle."

"Why?"

I asked princess Sistina her reason for saying that.

"It would be better if you see it for yourself."

After pondering a bit, she said that as she stood up.

She told me that I would understand once I go the Pendragon mansion in the royal capital, so I did while feeling puzzled.

"What is this?"

There was a huge crowd in front of our mansion.

Looking closer, there are even stalls.

"Apparently, every one of them came to see Satou."

"Me?"

"Yes, [Demon Lord Slayer] is that great of a feat."

I get what princess Sistina is trying to say.

How do I say this, she has a really proud look on her face.

My sense had been numbed recently, but killing a demon lord was sort of a huge feat huh.

I was just trying to help Hero Hayato, but it appears even that has quite an impact.

Her suggestion of not directly landing the airship in the castle is probably for the sake of appealing to these sightseers.

"Thank you for your advice. Looks like I wasn't considerate enough there."

I draw the airship route in my head while thanking her.

-Pipiru! Piru! Piru!

As I was gazing outside the window while thinking, an emerald green feathered bird was chirping with a haughty look before I knew it.

"Hisui, have you told Her Highness in advance?"

-Pi! Pirupi! Piru!

Hisui averted its gaze and chirped as if making excuses.

Hisui was a bird princess Doris, princess Sistina's little sister of the same mother, kept, but it got turned into [God Bird] due to a certain incident and ended up frequently dropping in here.

I'll take Hisui along with me to castle and return it.



"My name is Sisusosu, commander of Royal Capital Air Defense unit. I am extremely delighted to be of service to your excellency Pendragon dearimasu."

A unit of ten birdmen appeared when our airship got around the capital's vicinity.

They told me that they had come to lead us when I asked them on the deck.

"I'd like to head toward the castle after a lap around the capital, is that alright?"

"Yes sir! Of course dearimasu! The people of royal capital have been coming to Pendragon Mansion every day in hope of taking a glance of your excellency Pendragon, they would be delighted if your excellency wave your hands to them from the deck dearimasu."

This person talked really stiff.

And he's sweating profusely even though he's a birdman, maybe he's nervous?

"Got it, we'll do that. Please lead the way."

"Yes sir! This Sisusosu will bet his life to accomplish this mission splendidly!"

No no, you're exaggerating.

You don't have to bet your life just for leading the way.

When our airship was crossing the capital's outer wall, so many soldiers they looked like they were going to fall off had gathered on top of the wall, waving their hands to me.

Since they were shouting Pendragon name, they were probably welcoming us.

And when we have crossed over the military installations-

""PENDRAGON""

–I heard the voice of a crowd calling my house name in an ear-deafening volume.

The voice was a bit blurred because a lot of people called, but it was so loud I suspected it shook the entire airship.

The cheers became even louder when I waved my hand.

I saw some people fainting inside the crowd, so I secretly supported them with [Magic Hand].

[Arisa, could you bring everyone who helped with the demon lord subjugation here.]

[OK.]

I used Telephone to call the girls who were waiting in the Solitary Island Palace to come here.

"Oh, gureatto"?"

"Amazing nodesu! Everyone called Master's name nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi's eye turned round and they replied back at the crowd's cheers.

Looks like waving hands wasn't enough for them, as they run on top of the handrails while wagging their tails buzzingly.

"This feels somewhat embarrassing."

"Puff out your chest Lulu. This is proof of how great of a feat we have accomplished."

"That's right desuwa! Never before since the founding of Shiga Kingdom, someone other than heroes and their attendants ever slain a demon lord. It's a very great feat desuwayo!"

Weirdly high spirited Lady Karina joined in Lulu's and Liza's conversation. Wonder if the reason why her tension goes up when it's about heroes is due to the influence of her hero-loving father.

"Master, hoping for a rotation above the orphanage."

Nana pulled my sleeves with an expressionless face.

"Fine by me, anything you took fancy there?"

"The density of young organisms is thick, it's really cute."

"...I see."

Looks like it's Nana's personal preference.

Since we're not really in a hurry, I let the airship circle around above the orphanage once.

And since Nana looks satisfied, this much service is fine right.

"Mwu, ears hurt."

Mia complained while closing her ears.

Mia pouted for a while, but then she pulled herself together and started to sing a heroic tune.

Even though she doesn't like the noise, looks like she doesn't hate the voices that praises us themselves.

"But really, we're so popular."

-Pipiru! Piru! Piru!

For some reason, Hisui replied while haughtily puffing its chests to the admiring Arisa.

Apparently, Hisui thinks like it's about itself.

-Chuii.

Before I knew it, Chuufat and the other sage mice are also waving their hands

on top of the handrail.

Just where did they slip into here.

I enjoyed the royal capital sky while smiling wryly.



"Uwaah, that looks amazing."

"Parade"?"

"Everything's glittery nodesu."

"Nn, reception."

The youth troupe were surprised at the spectacle before their eyes.

After circling the royal capital sky, the birdman unit was replaced with Wyvern Riders en route to the royal castle.

We followed them to a courtyard inside the castle.

Holy Knights and Royal Guard Knights in dazzling armors, and servants and court ladies in ceremonial dresses were standing in rows there.

It's as if they're welcoming a state guest.

When the airship landed and the boarding ramp was lowered down, I heard a live performance from behind the knights.

Looks like there's an orchestra behind them.

I walked with the girls on the spread carpet in the courtyard, then I saw a familiar face when the front gate opened.

"I have returned from duty, your highness Soltrick."

"Umu, good work returning back, Viscount Pendragon."

I was surprised to see first prince Soltrick coming to meet us for some reason. I already knew that the prime minister, princess Sistina and Shiga Eight Sword's Heim-shi were behind him because I had marked them, but I didn't put a marker on the prince.

Since princess Sistina was supposed to be staying in the royal capital's castle, she had gone back to her private room when our airship entered the capital sky. Hikaru and the first seat of Shiga Eight Swords, Zeff Julberg the Infallible are standing by in the audience chamber with the king.

"Great teacher nanodesu."
"Heya"?"

Pochi and Tama lightly waved their hands to Heim-shi.

Heim had no reaction—no, the corner of his mouth was slightly raised, so he doesn't seem to hate the two at least.

Several of the knights who were in the line were trembling while averting their faces, they apparently didn't know he could make that face.

Un, do your best to endure it.

When prince Soltrick walked beside me in friendly manners, the jealous gazes from some of his close aides were a bit irritating.

I'm not gonna take your prince away, so stop with those gazes.

We walked through the passage and separated from them in front of a thick door leading to the audience chamber.

Two senior royal guard knights wearing ceremonial full armor are standing in front of the shut door, crossing their gaudy halberds.

When a bell-like sound could be heard from inside the door, the two pulled away their halberds and turned to us.

Four pages pushed the door open behind them.

"Vice Minister of Tourism Ministry, Viscount Pendragon, enter."

I replied with a silent bow and stepped inside the audience chamber. Since the place I was before was a bit dim, the light pouring from the skylight slightly dazzled my eyes.

My view returned to normal in an instant thanks to Light-Adjustment skill.

The king and Hikaru are already sitting on the thrones inside the audience chamber, the three dukes and cabinet ministers are standing on the wayside to the thrones.

The royal family, the prime minister and every one of Shiga Eight Swords are seemingly present too.

Usually, the king would have entered afterward, but for some reason he's already sitting here today.

"Uwah, lotsa big-shots here."

I heard Arisa's low volume muttering.

Since I can't look back, I use space magic [Distant View] to see behind, looks like the girls are all nervous.

I move my hand behind my back to signal them to [Relax].

The girls and I knelt down when we got before the two thrones where the king and Hikaru sat.

Come to think of it, Hikaru who's treated as a Duchess is sitting in a throne, is that okay?

Though since they're not hiding the fact that she's the Ancestor King and the three dukes and other nobles don't seem to mind it, I guess it is.

"Sir Pendragon, raise your face."

I raise my face at the king's order.

The king isn't wearing his usual attire but ceremonial dress that's usually reserved for coronation ceremony.

"In light of the great accomplishment you have done-"

Summarizing the long winded speech of the king, apparently, he's raising my peerage and position as a reward for slaying demon lord, and I'm also granted treasures and some privileges.

As for the peerage part, I'm going to become an earl, Earl Muno, my direct superior, will become a marquis, Liza will become a honorary viscount, and Lady Karina and other girls will become honorary baronesses.

Raising our peerage immediately like this without waiting for the Kingdom Conference in two months is a special exception for my distinguished service.

My position went up from Tourism vice minister to minister.

According to the king, countries who are quick with their intel have sent letters welcoming my visits.

The treasures were historical things, but most of them were related to Ancestor King-sama, so they weren't really of value. Hikaru herself is with us anyway.

I've gotten two privileges.

One is trade privilege that's related to foodstuff and spices—mainly tax exemption.

The other one is the right to establish a knight order, dunno what's this good for.

I don't plan to have a private military force, so the later probably won't ever be utilized.

According to marquis Kelten, who has strong connection with the military, knights who had heard about that beforehand replaced their armor with brand new ones in hope of entering into it, the blacksmith workshops in the capital were currently in full throttle.

I should spread news that knight order isn't happening before the blacksmiths die of overworking.

Victims from death march are better off left in my former world.



"Earl Pendragon, his esteemed is calling for you."

After coming out of the mentally fatiguing audience, a young man wearing page attire called out to me.

According to AR display, he seems to be a page of prince Soltrick.

"Who could that be?"

"You'll see for yourself."

What a blunt attitude.

The page began to walk as if it was only natural for me to follow him.

Un, I don't like this type.

"Everyone, go to where her highness Sistina is."

"Wouldn't it better if you're with me or Liza-san?"

"It's okay, it seems the one calling is the first prince."

I told that to the worried Arisa and the others.

"What are you doing! His highness is waiting!"

The page who noticed me not following him ran back and threw a tantrum. He's terribly running out of breath.

Looks like he had walked off quite far.

"What is with your tone, you a mere servant toward his excellency the earl."

Liza retaliated by strongly hitting the tip of her magic spear on the floor.

The page cowered when he saw her angry look.

"D-demi human lowlife-"

The page seemingly couldn't forgive himself for that, and insulted Liza while bluffing with trembling voice.

"Ara? A mere servant who isn't even a noble dares to insult Viscount Kishresgalza? We should be allowed to give him a punishment here don't we?" "Punishment"?"

"Let's do it like, zunbararin, nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi extend one-handed sword sized Magic Edge out of their fingers.

Their smiles look evil.

The page turned pale and sweated profusely.

"What are you doing, Quonz!"

A man wearing Holy Knight attire appeared in the passage.

He seems to be one of the first prince followers too.

Tama and Pochi instantly erased the finger Magic Edge.

"Bodan-sama!"

The page who found an ally recovered and clung to him.

"Don't touch me you fool!"

The holy knight who coldly shook off the page bowed lightly and opened his mouth.

"Your excellency Pendragon, I beg your forgiveness for this person's rudeness. His highness Soltrick is waiting, allow me to accompany you."

He said it like a request, but it really was an order.

I wasn't going to refuse if only they had acted this way from the beginning.

I don't dislike first prince Soltrick after all, and he's princess Sistina's older brother.

"I'll be going then."

I waved my hand to the girls and went with the royal guard knight toward the salon where the first prince was waiting.



"Congratulations, Earl Pendragon."

"Thank you very much, your highness Soltrick."

First prince Soltrick welcomed me full of smiles and invited me to a seat beside him.

The royal guard knight told the prince about the matter earlier and he curtly dismissed Quonz-kun the page.

It's been a while since I last saw a dry dismissal in a feudal society.

I pray that he won't have an unjustified resentment toward me.

"-I never thought you would subjugate Demon Lord together with the hero."

Oops, looks like the conversation advanced while I was reminiscing.
I should listen to him properly since simply throwing random remarks seems like it'll be bad here.

"I was only acting as a support for Hero-sama and his attendants."

"That is enough to be called Demon Lord Slayer. I know that you're friends with the hero, but I do not think that is enough for the imperial princess of Saga Empire to recognize you."

Did I ever tell them that I was Hero Hayato's friend?

-Can't remember ever doing so.

It's not like I'm hiding it though, so I don't mind.

"I had some private talks with his majesty. I will take over the throne in five year time. From this year on, I will gradually take charge of his majesty's work."

Hmm, having to bear the fate of a large country at 32 sounds tough. I'll assist you from the shadow.

"And, capable personnels are needed for the stability of the throne."

–Agree.

Securing capable personnels was the key to victory in the Romance of Three Kingdoms and [The Ambition of Akechi Mitsuhide.]

"The majority of the current ministers and nobles of Duke Bishtal faction have sworn to support me."

The prince stopped there and powerfully stared at me.

His face looks like he wants me too guess something.

"You, after his highness going this far—"
"Cease."

The prince stopped one of his followers who stood up and glared at me.

"Sir Pendragon, become my retainer. Leave Marquis Muno side and be directly under me. Of course, I promise you further fame once you are my direct retainer."

"I am extremely honored, however, my lord is only one, his excellency Muno. I will have to decline your offer."

The earnest prince froze while looking taken back.

I'm sorry for him, but for me personally, Marquiss Muno is the ideal boss.

"You bastard!"

"A direct invitation from his highness!"

"You intend to rebel against Shiga Kingdom-"

The followers stood up with red faces ahead of the prince.

These young noblemen who are often hot-blooded are even at the point of pulling out their rapiers.

"Cease it."

The prince stopped his aides with a firm voice.

He waited for his aides to sheathe their swords and sit down, and turned to me.

"To be honest, I had never thought that you would refuse."

The prince spoke with a shocked face.

From my perspective, his logic of thinking that I'd agree to it is the weird one instead.

"Do you think I am unfit to be the king?"
"No."

According to the prime minister and Hikaru, he seems to be much more capable than the current Shiga King right after his enthronement.

"Then, why?"

"I do not wish for fame."

I'm sure I said this already when I met him for the first time back then.

"Are you really saying that, after becoming an earl at that age and even a minister?"

The prince seemed astounded hearing what I said.

I mean, I didn't wish for neither.

Telling him that seemed like it would only worsen the situation, so I brushed it off with a Japanese-like vague smile.

"I understand. If you don't want to be my subordinate, be my friend instead."

I can finally assent with the prince.

He's princess Sistina's older brother after all, I can give as many OK as he wants if it's just being a friend.

"I will be visiting Duke Oyugock sooner or later. Be present as my friend then."

"Understood."

That wasn't really a way to talk with a friend.

Since he was educated to be the candidate of king of a large kingdom, this might be his usual attitude.

"Well then, Bodan will get in touch with you once the schedule is set."

The prince left his seat after saying that.

The prince was going to walk away with his followers, but then he looked like he remembered something and turned around.

"I will be attending my little sister's wedding ceremony. Tell the date to my head aide."

After saying that unilaterally, he left the salon.

By little sister wedding ceremony, is he talking about me and princess Sistina?

That reminds me, there's only two months before the one year time limit passes.

The king didn't say anything about it too, perhaps the thing about me being the princess's fiance was a joke.

I left the salon while escaping reality as such.

"""Your excellency Pendragon! Let me work under you as a retainer!"""
"Earl-sama! Please come to the dance party in my house!"
""""Kyaa, Satou-sama!!"""

Civil and military officials, nobles wearing expensive looking clothes, and ladies-in-waiting and maids who seemed confident about their figures were waiting outside the salon.

Dealing with them seemed like it would be oddly tiring, so I fully opened the Japanese Smile, told them "I have some urgent business to do, do excuse me."

"""Your excellency Pendragon! Let me join your knights!"""
"I-I can use magic edge! Allow me to join your excellency Mithril Knights!"

I took a turn in a passage, and now holy knights and knights of another fiefdom, all men, flooded me.

All of them had bloodshot eyes, they're a bit scary.

There was even someone who arbitrarily decided upon the knight order name among them.

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"Pick-up"?"
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I turned toward the voice on the side and met eyes with Tama who showed up from a shadow on the floor of a narrow passage intended for servant use. I jumped into Tama's shadow at the same time I went into the narrow passage, moving to my mansion in the royal capital.

I throw myself into the sofa in the private room and sigh.

"You saved me."

"Don't worry be happy~?"

I pat the head of Tama who has curling up on my lap and thank her.

The effect of [Demon Lord Slayer] is quite huge.

I have a feeling that it might take a while before I could visit the capital's Tenion Temple and ask about a way to communicate with the gods.

16-2. The Royal Castle's Salon

Satou here. There are times when you're taken aback by the surrounding people as they clamor about something you don't care about yourself, right. I'd prefer for them to take it at face value instead of weirdly trying to read some secret meaning behind the words.



"Ichirou-nii, did Sol-kun try to solicit you to be his retainer?"

While I was making transformation sets for Pochi and Tama's school commuting, Hikaru came by with some snacks on her hand.

The things on the table, like the smocking jacket, flask cloth, sling, bag for indoor shoes, and dust cloth were all handmade by Arisa after she got carried away.

"I'm amazed you knew."

"Un, cause Sete scolded Sol-kun about that."

This Sete that Hikaru referred is the king's nickname.

According to the info on my map, his real name appears to be Seteralick.

"Why would he?"

"I mean, Sete and the others had already made the arrangement-"

According to Hikaru, the king and the prime minister are currently trying to persuade Duke Bishtal and Marquis Kelten from soliciting me away from Earl Muno–He's a marquis now eh–behind the scene.

Yet the prince Soltrick himself tried to make me his retainer, thus it provoked the king's wrath.

"Well Sete was also at fault for not telling Sol-kun, and Sol-kun too nicely dropped it to the level of being friends, so he only got reprimanded, it's file."

Being a royalty seems to be a pain.

I feel like they aren't communicating normally enough as parent and child, but that might be just how it is between a busy king and a 32-year old son and heir.

Still, looks like even the king is troubled as to how to treat a demon lord

slayer.

"That's not it you know?"

"It's not?"

"Sete and pm seem convinced that Ichirou-nii's true identity is Hero Nanashi."

-It's the opposite, the opposite. Hero Nanashi true identity is me.

Retorting aside, Hikaru only responded the king's question with a vague Japanese smile, neither affirming nor denying it.

Hikaru isn't the type that can be subtle with her gestures though, so they most likely have found out.

I did some flashy things during the Divine Punishment while bracing myself for the possibility of having my identity blown, so only this much is within my expectation.

"But, looks like Sete and pm think that Ichirou-nii's real nature isn't a normal human."

Come to think of it, when we told the king and pm that there were two Nanashi, they thought I was a gods apostle.

"I'm just an ordinary man though."

When I replied that, Hikaru gleefully laughed, "Ahaha."

-How rude.

The entry on my status properly reads [Human] just you know.

"Putting aside the matter about whether Ichirou-nii is <code>[ordinary]</code> or not, it seems Sete thinks that you're a <code>[Dragon Avatar]</code> who turned himself into human using Primeval Magic, you see?"

-Dragon?

"Isn't that quite a leap of logic?"

"Not really you know". I mean you beat demon lords all over and routinely saved the world from crises. Isn't it quite obvious that you aren't a normal person?"

Hikaru continues with that as a preface.

"Which means, you're either a god's apostle, a demon or a dragon, but a demon wouldn't kill demon lords left and right like that, and a god's apostle wouldn't go against god's will and proactively prevented monster stampedes. Therefore—"

Looks like [Dragon] is the only remaining possibility by the process of elimination.

The battle junkies, Black Dragon and Ancient Dragon, and the careless Heavenly Dragon, Ten-chan flashed in my mind.

I don't think I'm that eccentric though?

I rarely ever damage the surroundings.

"Ah!"

Hikaru pointed at the wall clock and stood up.

"We'll be late for the dance party if we don't dress up soon."

"Is it that time already?"

Glancing at the schedule table in my menu, it's bad indeed.

We really can't be late to attend a huge dance party sponsored by the king can we.



"So this is the ultimate dish which dyes over all thing as told in the legend!"

"This nose-stimulating smell is just wondrous."

I heard voices of the glutton nobles from Oyugock territory–Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku from a food cart that provides light meals.

I didn't see them in the noon, just when did they get to the capital.

Don't tell me that they flew here on airships for the sake of eating curry.

It seems the two are camping in the curry corner.

"I expected no less from the two celebrated gourmets. You went for the curry first thing first."

The prime minister who requested the curry from me said that to Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku while looking proud.

"Well well, if it isn't your excellency prime minister."

"It can't be that you drove Earl Pendragon who has achieved something as great as slaying demon lord to cook this?"

"That cannot be, our wise and great prime minister would never do such folly."

Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku who were acting weirdly pompous started to pick a fight with the prime minister.

"Good evening, Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku. I had asked our chef to cook these dishes, I myself didn't have any hand on them."

I didn't want to see a fight between acquaintances, so I swiftly got between them and cleared the misunderstanding.

"So these are the dishes from Hero-sama's country. To think the day where I could see the real thing myself would come!"

"It's spicy, but really tasty."

"You're right, Soruna."

I turned around to see the source of the cozy carefree voices and found Marquis Muno and his family enjoying curry along the wall in low key. Even though they're one of the few quickly rising upper ranked nobles that can be counted on hands in Shiga Kingdom, Muno family's humbleness never changes.

"Your excellency Muno!"

"Heya, Satou-kun. We're having some curry here."

Marquis Muno greeted me with the hand that held a curry spoon raised.

"It's truly delicious—so this the dish that the first generation hero-sama and ancestor king-sama yearned all their life.... Ah, I'm in the annals of history right now."

Marquis Muno said some incomprehensible things with an emotional face.

But really, if I knew that he'd be this delighted, I would have served some curry when we visited Muno territory.

"They're good with fried prawns and cutlets too you know."
"Erina!"

"Yes yes, Karina-sama. I've got them here already~"

Muno Marquisdom's maid, Erina came back carrying a plate with fried prawns and cutlets inside.

The pieces of fried prawn around her mouth must be from her poison tasting.

No need to point out minor details.

"Satou, could I have a dance?"

When I was heartwarmingly watching Muno family, Hikaru who had gone all out with her dress called from behind.

Today she's wearing make up properly, it makes her look like a different person.

"Karina-sama, would you let me have this dance first?"

Lady Karina who was stuffing her cheeks with curry didn't say anything and could only nod with a complex expression on her face.

It'd be nice if she could learn from her big sister Soruna and raise her girl power a bit more.

"Look, demon slayer-dono is taking a woman's hand."

"Oy, that's not her highness Sistina, is that?"

"That's Duchess Mitsukuni!"

Attentive Ears skill picked up the nobles' rustling.

When we got to the center of the dance hall, a lively tune of dance music started playing.

"It feels strange dancing with Ichirou-nii."

Hikaru said some weird thing even though this wasn't the first time we danced together.

"It'll be nice if this moment continues on forever—"
"I'll dance with you anytime you want."

I mean, don't raise a weird flag there.

That retort in my mind ended up being in vain as our dance ended without any problem and then I continued to dance with princess Sistina, Lady Karina and Sera in turns, moved to the lower noble area and danced with Arisa and the

youth troupe, and Lulu and the senior troupe.

The beastkin girls had a special training Arisa the other day, so they could dance well, sans some weird parts.

Of course, I've recorded all that so we can watch it back anytime.

After I danced with Zena-san lastly, daughters of lower nobles in the surroundings rushed in.

Since Zena-san's position was that of a lower noble in Seryuu earldom, it probably became the impetus for people who were holding back to step forward.

"Earl Pendragon-sama, please allow me to have a dance with you."

"Earl Pendragon-sama, my house is fertile! Make me your concubine to continue your lineage!"

"Earl Pendragon-sama, please have a dance with me. I don't mind if it's inside the bedroom at night."

Fair-looking women have gathered here, but they're a bit too honest with their desire.

Many also asked me to a dance when I became viscount back then, but this can't be compared to that time.

How do I say this, they're really desperate I can even feel bloodlust.

"""Earl Pendragon-sama, please-"""

The flooding girls pushed their bodies on mine.

Lots of them were unmarried women of around mid to highschooler ages, but some were widows at their 20s.

They were quite forceful—.

"Guilty."

"Earl-sama is soon to be married with her highness princess, his body is precious! Contacts from anyone besides his family is not allowed!"

They were forced to withdraw before Mia and Arisa's impregnable fortress pair and the fighting prowess of Lady Karina's chest.

Beauties who have gotten reputation as flirts in the high society could only

watch that from afar as they couldn't easily get close.

There were some terribly beautiful women enough to rob my eyes, but since they had [Squanderer], [Hard-bitten], and [Wicked Woman] on their titles, I ignored them along with the other women.

As terribly beautiful they are, they're still not at the level of Lulu anyway.

"Master! I have secured young organisms so I reported."

As I was watching the impregnable fortress pair doing their magic, Nana who went away by herself took little girls with her back in tow.

"Perodota-I'm sorry, Pendotagon... Auuu"

"Nice to meet you Earl-sama, my name is Sopoana, third daughter of Baronet Mousa."

"Earl Pendragon-sama, I'm Kisuna, seventh daughter of Baron Nito."

Children who just debuted in high society.

"Nice to meet you, young ladies. I'm a retainer of Marquis Muno, Earl Satou Pendragon."

I bowed like a noble would before the little ladies.

The children screamed in delight like kyaa when they saw that.

Arisa and Mia are looking here for some reasson, I want to insist my innocence.

In one corner of the dance hall, I danced with the children, and their older sisters and older sisters of those sisters, it got out of control as the age kept increasing.

It seems I have to strongly decline when it's necessary to do so even if the other party is a kid.

The group of women who had circumvented the impregnable fortress pair began to walk toward here as their eyes which looked like that of carnivores kept staring at me.

It almost feels like they were shouting, "Hyahhaa! Time for the hunt!"

The dance hall got noisy just when I looked around trying to find a way to escape.

"His Majesty the king and his highness Soltrick!"

After the announcement, the king and the first prince went back. Though, the king brought Duke Bishtal and Duke Oyugock back with him.

-Oh?

First prince Soltrick is looking at me with complicated eyes. It's as if he thinks I'm an inhuman existence.

That prince broke the crowd apart like Moses as he walked toward me. The little girls who were around me took some distance away in a hurry.

"Earl Pendragon, can I have a bit of your time?" "With pleasures, your highness Soltrick."

I've gotten a bit tired dancing while getting glued by the noble ladies, so this invitation is welcome to me.

As long as it's nothing troublesome.



"Am I bothering you in your socializing?"

"Not at all, I had just gotten a bit tired dancing, so I'm very thankful for having to accompany your highness."

Invited by the first prince, Soltrick, I was led to a salon for royalty near the dance hall.

It appears there is a space equipped with an anti-spying magic tool to talk secretly here.

And the seat I'm led to by the prince is exactly inside that space. Looks like he wants to have a secret talk.

"I got severely reprimanded by his majesty for trying to pull you to be my retainer."

The prince sat on the salon's sofa and said that with a hard-to-read expression.

It's about the matter Hikaru told me before the dance party.

His aides are standing at a place away, it seems they won't approach us as

long as the anti-spying magic tool is still active.

-Oh?

Come to think of it, one of his aides has changed to someone I don't know.

"I have fired that page."

The prince seemingly noticed my line of sight and told that nonchalantly.

Looks like he was originally someone who worked under the third prince Sharlick.

He got discharged after the aging of the third prince by the yellow demon in the duchy capital, and got hired by the first prince to be his page after a period of working as a handyman.

Looks like he was hired because of his meek attitudes against high ranking people.

I wasn't interested in the details so I didn't really listen.

"Allow me to promise you again."

The prince straightened himself with a serious expression.

"I will not try to make you my retainer unless you willingly do so. I want us to be nothing more but friends and I ask you to correct me if I ever commit an error."

"I understand, Soltrick-sama."

It's convenient for me personally, so I obediently nodded.

Judging from what Hikaru said, the king and the prime minister seems to have wrongly guessed that me acting as hero Nanashi's body double was only for Hikaru to mimic my speech and conduct and I'm a being more powerful than Hikaru—a Dragon Avatar.

They treated me this delicately probably because they don't want to anger me and bring themselves the wrath of a dragon.

They'd have negotiated normally if I were ancestor king Yamato's body double or attendant.

In all likelihood, the king has probably hammered the prince with the possibility of me being a dragon.

Now, I personally am not going to neither deny nor affirm this rumor. There's probably no one suicidal enough to step on a bare minefield like a dragon's wrath, and now the upper echelon will probably stop pushing unnecessary marriage proposals on me.



"I should have taken my time to pick better."

First prince Soltrick said that while not showing his exhaustion in his face.

After the talk earlier, the prince introduced me to his retainers and nobles from Duke Bishtal faction, but there was quite a lot of them.

Additionally, since Duke Bishtal was summoned by the king, a talented looking elite young man who was also the heir was introduced to me as Duke Bishtal's delegation.

The young man really looked like your model stuck-up noble, but since he was probing like he was handling an unexploded bomb, dealing with him was more tiring than him just being stuck-up.

After we finished greeting each others, one of the prince's aide started to speak with, "This is still a rumor" as the preface.

"Is your highness aware about the rumor of the discovery of the [Holy Living Armor] that's in the ancestor king-sama's legend?"

Holy Living Armor—it feels like I've heard this term from someone a long time ago.

"Some noble somewhere probably got deceived by a fraud again. What blasphemy."

A middle-aged noble from Duke Bishtal faction said that and the other nobles also seemingly convinced that it was a fake.

This is probably a frequent fraud like how [Beria Magic Medicine] was in the labyrinth city.

"It might be the truth y'know?"

Just like Beria magic medicine.

"Hou? So Earl Pendragon is betting on the authenticity of the [Holy Living

Armor being found?"

"What are you betting?"

"I'm sure Sir Pendragon will bet an article the like of us cannot even begin to fathom."

Some of the nobles fanned me.

It seems to be a revenge play by people who don't think well of me being the first prince's [Friend].

"Then I will bet this."

It's a key made of diamond with a seven-colored jewel put on its shaft, a magic circuit from blue liquid is carved inside the body.

It's one of joke items I made for the girls' treasure hunting game.

It will emit beautiful blue light when you fill it with mana, but it has no magical effect at all.

"T-that's!"

An intellectual looking noble was surprised when he saw the key. The way he was surprised almost made want to instinctively said, "Did you know $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$."

"I cannot say for certain, but this is an insignia from the ancient Rarakie dynasty that was destroyed during the age of gods."

Hee.

I try to recall the event of Floating Island Rarakie that happened in the middle of the Divine Punishment.

It does look similar with engravings that were in the capital of Rarakie.

Well, it's just a mere coincidence....

"Then is this the key to move the flying castle and city?"

"T-true! The pattern inside this key looks like a magic circuit."

Lured by the intellectual-looking noble, the other nobles also clamored.

"Earl Pendragon! Could I put mana in this?"

"Yes, do as you like."

I nodded to the noble who asked with a desperate face.

The noble in question puts his mana, then the circuit gets clad in beautiful blue light and then, beautiful ripples of light are produced on the surface of the key.

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"Blue light?!"

"Holy magic tool!"

"B-beautiful...."
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The nobles are staring at it like they've been entranced.

How do I say this, the way they're enthralled looks like they'd about to go kill each other any time, it's scary.

They felt way more serious than the ladies earlier.

"Earl Pendragon, are you really sure you're betting this extraordinary treasure?"

The first prince asked me.

He's probably telling me that I can still pull back now, but it will have the opposite effect for sure.

Because the nobles who were entranced by the diamond key recalled about the bet.

"I-I will bet the toll tax collection right for the Molto river bridge!"

"Who'd need toll right for some random river like that! I will bet the right to Yukel silver mine!"

"Then I will bet our heirloom mithril sword."

"Magic sword! I'll bet the magic sword Forbidden handed down in Bisthal House!"

Forbidden?

Judging from the English name, it means [Prohibited] or [Taboo].

"What? Are you too cheap to bet Shaitan?"

"Ludicrous, like I'd use Shaitan as a betting item!"

The duke heir and the prince's retainer are quarreling.

Apparently, Bishtal house has several magic swords as the heirlooms.

"Then I will bet the secret magic book of dyeing!"
"I'll bet a military tool then!"

The place was filled with enthusiasm as people began to bet their magic equipment, scrolls, Blessing Orbs and magic books.

It somehow turned into a boasting event for their heirlooms.

On the other hands, people who don't have anything to bet can only groan 'gununu'.

"I'll bet my granddaughter!"

"Then I'll bet my little sister!"

Oy oy, you're getting too carried away. I don't like these kind of things.

"Please exclude humans from the bet."

"That's unjust—"

"Accepted."

The first prince quickly intercepted a noble who was going to object my declaration.

"Are you really sure you're betting that?"

The prince asked once again.

"Yes. That was something I found inside a hill-like Octopus Kraken's belly I encountered when I was journeying as Satou. Thus, I'm not sure if it has any value myself. If that is allowed, then."

"Then, I will not object."

At my explanation, the prince glanced at the nobles and nodded.

"But there is only one of this key, can this be bet?"

A key can't be divided unlike money.

"No problem, people who obtain the key just have to share it in accordance to the value of the thing they bet."

The prince asked the nobles, "You're fine with that right?", and the nobles replied positively with faces filled with desire.

After hearing that it will be split by the value of the bet, higher ranked nobles began to add dangerous-sounding things like copper and iron mines, gem deposits and trade rights.

Additionally, I asked the details of the rumor from the one who brought it up, and it seemed that the [Holy Living Armor] that became the source of this bet was discovered by explorers under Marquis Kelten.

After the threat of monster stampedes was over, Marquis Kelten applied for the permission to deploy a large airship to the king, so the rumor seemed plausible.

The nobles are guessing that the airship is for the sake of transporting supply and soldiers needed to investigate the ruin the explorers discovered.

I think that there's a high chance of the armor really existing if the marquis even goes as far as mobilizing an airship, but according to the intellectual glasses noble, the family of Marquis Kelten have been often recorded to search for the [Holy Living Armor] and fail at it in history of Shiga Kingdom.

Apparently, the nobles could bet this heartily because they had a huge chance of winning.

Well even if I lost the bet, that'd just mean losing a junk, no problem here.



"Oh, what should I do. I have dirtied this precious dress I borrowed from mother."

A girl who was speaking in monotone was blocking the passage when I was on my way back to the girls after leaving the prince's salon.

The monotone-speaking girl appears to be a baroness of Bishtal Dukedom. A particularly big bucktooth seems to be her charm point.

Since her house maid was watching while clenching her fist behind a pillar, there's no doubt that this is a farce.

I pass by her without stopping.

"I'm in trouble". Really really in trouble"."

This time a muscular woman carrying torn shoes were in trouble, looking obviously unnatural.

"My shoes of the heel got torn"."

Isn't that supposed to be [Heel of your shoes]?

Well, forget the heel, I think having the entire shoes ripped is just too much for an act.

This woman is also a noble from Bishtal dukedom.

"My young little sister is sick in bed. But my family is so poor we can't afford her medicine."

An obese woman with jewels covering her entire body in bad taste appealed.

"My chronic disease-"

This time a dispirited woman with a make-up that made her look sickly was sitting, looking like a ghost.

I almost believed her for an instant, but according to AR reading, she's the very picture of health, so I walk by her without stopping.

I was made to witness these farces many times until I arrived at the hall. One thing they have in common is that they are all plain women related to Bishtal dukedom.

I have no doubt that this must be a plain harassment by Duke Bishtal.

I was planning to dispatch Echigoya Firm restoration unit to Bishtal dukedom to help the territory's revival in all earnestness but it seems to be a good idea to refrain from doing that for a while.

I'll leave it at the level of sending enough food so that there won't be anyone dying from starvation, like it's always been so far.

16-3. Imperial Princess Marriage

Satou here. In my elementary school days, I was taught that rain in a a fine weather was the [Fox's Wedding]. I remember finding it mysterious and having an image about it in my mind. For some reason, it was a girl with fox ears in kimono though.



"It has been a while Earl Pendragon."

"Excuse me for my long silence, countess Litton."

The day after the ball, I was invited to a tea party by a friend of Marchioness Ashinen, the wife of Labyrinth City's viceroy—Countess Litton, one of the influential nobles in the royal capital.

"You were a chevalier when we first met, but we're of equal standing now. Maybe you'll climb past me by next year."

The countess spoke in a tone that could be either joking or serious.

"That won't be happening. My peerage won't go up further than now."

"My? Does that mean you really won't become his majesty's or prince Soltrick's retainer?"

The countess was surprised with rounded eyes to hear me.

With her intelligence network, she should have known about it already, she's probably confirming it now.

And my choice still managed to surprise the countess who had prior knowledge about it.

I was led to the center of the countess's tea party.

To the seats where her close friends are sitting.

The first half of the topic was mainly about Hero Hayato and demon lord slayer thing.

It was the same thing I narrated in the first prince's salon yesterday, recomposed to put emphasis in things the ladies would like. Since it was popular with them, I deemed it good. "Satou-sama was visiting the south sea when the Divine Punishment happened right? Were the sea monsters coming to attack too there?" "Yes, I beheld a fight between a kraken that was as big as a small island and the local army."

"Did Sir Pendragon participate in the fight?"

"I only helped a little. Since the ship I was riding on had cannons on board."

I didn't use them though.

"My, so there were heroic tales over there too."

"Hero Nanashi-sama and his Golden Knights were also playing an active role in the mid southern of Shiga Kingdom you see."

"Is that right, I would love to see it for myself."

I could see it to a degree using distant view magic, but only the outlines. The brownies who accompanied the girls had recording machines with them.

"The smaller countries at the western part of the continent are apparently still in confusion by the monster stampedes from the Divine Punishment."

"There aren't many rumors about Saga Empire at the northern part of the continent are there."

"I mean, that country has a lot of warships and strong knights at their disposal." "And it's said that they also house many holy swords and holy relics left behind by heroes-sama of the olden."

I see, the popular belief is that, besides at the western part of the continent, the situation is stabilizing.

Additionally, people believe that the weasel empire at the eastern part of the continent has been annihilated, and only Dejima Island remains. In fact, the parishes on the edge of Weasel Empire are still going strong, but that doesn't seem to be known.

"Let us leave all the exaggerated talk to the men."

The countess changed the topic when it was the time for the cakes to come. I'm also a man, but for some reason, I was included in her frame.

"Sir Pendragon, you were quite popular last night weren't you?"

The countess who attended the ball yesterday touched upon that topic.

So cruel, even though she knew that I was covered in little girls besides my family.

"I heard that his excellency Bishtal gathered the best of beauties among his relatives, was there anyone who caught Sir Pendragon's eyes?"

The countess asked with a smile on her face.

Looks like she also knew about the harassment yesterday.

"There was a lot of unique ladies."

To the point I want to interrogate Duke Bishtal just from where did he gather them.

"One of my lovers told me this-"

A voluptuous lady sitting on the same table as me started to talk in sexy voices.

"-The rumor about Holy Mobile Armor is spreading again."

The lady winked at me.

I'm sure she knows about the bet I did in the first prince's salon.

"Isn't it right, Sir Pendragon."

She urged me with sexy voice when I tried to ignore her, so I stated what happened yesterday.

I told them about how I bet a diamond key with a joke circuit inside for the fact that Holy Mobile Armor does exist, while the other nobles bet their rights, mines and things like that.

"My, even if they knew they were winning, everyone acted like a child."

One of the ladies got angry at the nobles who participated in the bet. These ladies also seemingly think that there's no chance of the Holy Mobile Armor getting found.

"Lord Pendragon, please show us the diamond key you're betting." "Yes, I don't mind."

I readily consented to a young lady's request, took the diamond key out of my breast pocket and put it on the table.

"My...."

"What a big diamond."

"Moreover, it's so beautifully crafted."

"The delicate craft is wonderful indeed, but there's something resembling a magic circuit inside it too."

"This must be an artifact from the age of gods."

The ladies all were staring at the key while exchanging words in excitement. The breast area of the lady sitting in front of me is getting dangerous, so I slightly avert my line of sight.

"Satou-sama, what kind of power does this artifact hold?"

"As far as my investigation goes, it's [It has no effect by itself. It's possible that there is another magic device to pair it with.]"

Possibility is infinite after all.

I smile at the lady who looks befuddled, and put my mana onto the magic circuit made from blue liquid inside the key to show off its beautiful pattern.

"Blue light!"

"I wonder if it's a holy relic?"

"-So pretty."

"Oh how wonderful isn't it?"

"No wonder the men went wild with their bet."

The ladies are watching blue light coming from the key in rapture.

You can make one with colored glass and light stone if you only prepare an earth magician and a magic tool engineer though.

The countess gave me an info in a low voice on my way back from the tea party.

The third prince, Sharlick has escaped from the northern monastery and is currently missing.

Feels like it's been a while since I heard someone with Sharlick name besides the second king.



"We came to school nodesu!"

"Sensing the presence of young organisms so I report."

The day after the tea party, I've come to the royal academy child school along with Tama, Pochi and Nana in their disguise sets.

I tried to invite the other girls, but Lulu didn't seem to have good memories about school and had a sorrowful look on her face, Liza obstinately objected with, "It is unnecessary for me."

Lady Karina who needed the education the most declined, "I don't wanna go to school at this age desuwa", and when I consulted princess Sistina, she told me that she's going to participate in a training for homemaking associate along with Sera and Zena-san.

I indirectly told her that my feeling was directed solely to Aze-san, but princess Sistina and Sera said to me, "We know", while smiling nicely. I wanted to ask them what kind of meaning did that "We know" contain, but since I felt like that would be stirring a hornet's nest, I kept my silence.

"Here"?"

"It's smaller than knight school nodesu."

"Small things are good so I inform."

I head to the headmaster room while taking the three who are looking around restlessly.

The last time I came here was during Shiro and Crow's enrollment.

"Welcome to our school, your excellency Earl Pendragon."

"It's been awhile, headmaster-dono."

I put down my hood and bowed like a noble to the headmaster.

Tama and Pochi mimicked me.

"I thought they were Kishreshgalza sisters, but it appears I was mistaken."

Today, Tama and Pochi are using transformation sets to turn into different catkin and dogkin from their usual selves.

At first, Arisa insisted that they should disguise into cat earkin and dog earkin, but since the two said that they didn't like having their fur repressed, I prioritized their wish.

Nana is using a normal disguise mask and a red wig.

"To tell you the truth, headmaster-"

I told him about the three's identities and that they were in disguises to not hinder their education.

"I see—your excellency is right in his judgment. I swear that I will keep quiet about their secret for the sake of their study."

"I'm grateful for your understanding."

I said my thank for the headmaster's goodwill.

Afterward, a female teacher explained to us about the study method and our business was over.

Holding Nana back from barging into the classrooms was the slightly difficult part.

Since they're going to enter Shiro and Crow's class starting tomorrow, I should tell Shiro and Crow and ask them to rein on Nana.

"Shate"?"

"Mabudachi is there too nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi found their friends from the knight school.

Tama's tail stood straight up, Pochi's tail wagged so hard it looked like it would flew off.

I caught the belts of the two who were about to jump, stopping them.

"Nyu~?"

"Bullying is bad nanodesuyo?"

I'm at a loss as to how to explain to the two who were tilting their heads.

"You two are in disguise right now-"

I hesitated to say 'so you can't go'.

"Nyu nyu nyu~?"

"Getting found out is no good nanodesu?"

Tama and Pochi lowered their eyebrows sorrowfully.

Fh isn't it fine?

Their friends should be able to keep it a secret, and even if they get found out, I'll just have lots of dummy dogkin and catkin children going to the school and slip them into the crowd in new disguises.

And above all, learning from failures is necessary for children.

"Shatee."

"Mabudachi nanodesu."

The two ran straight to their friends when I gave them the permission.



"That's a high speed airship of Saga Empire."

I muttered while looking up at an elegant-looking airship that was descending.

I was summoned to the royal castle the day after Tama and Pochi renewed their old friendship.

According to Hikaru who informed me earlier, a delegation from Saga Empire was coming to visit.

Hero Meiko who got many serious injuries to the point that she almost turned invalid due to Zaikuon War has already returned to Saga Empire.

The delegation's purpose is probably delivering a letter of commendation for the matter about Hero Meiko's recovery.

"That's an airship exclusive to royalty."

First prince Soltrick muttered flatly.

He didn't speak further so his aides also kept their silence.

It's a bit uncomfortable.

I knew from the AR information that the Second Imperial Princess Maryest Saga was on board the airship.

She was probably dispatched because she was related to hero.

"Let's go."

After the airship had landed and the wind calmed down, the first prince stepped outside the airport building.

I followed one step behind him.

The side of the airship opened and girl who was around highschooler age showed herself up in a pure white dress.

She's not princess Maryest.

"Nice to meet you, your imperial highness Trimenus. Welcome to Shiga Kingdom."

The first prince greeted the imperial girl.

Looks like she's a niece of princess Maryest.

"Thank you for your reception. Your highness Soltrick. I'm deeply honored to be graced by your presence."

"Let us not talk standing in such a place. This way to the castle."

The first prince brushes off his mantle grandly and walks to lead the empire girl.

"Ara? Satou is here to greet us too?"

"It's been awhile your highness Maryest."

Ms Maryest who was wearing black dress like she was mourning addressed me candidly

"Has Rin returned to Shiga Kingdom too?"

Lady Ringrande was treated by Echigoya Firm when I took her under my protection along with Hero Meiko, but she went with Hero Meiko to Saga Empire as an escort when I sent the hero back there.

Judging from Ms Maryest's way of talking, Lady Ringrande probably left Saga Empire before she departed on the airship.

I lightly search the map.

Lady Ringrande seems to be in the vicinity of Oyugock Dukedom's Mountain Grapevine.

Her dot isn't moving, she's probably doing something at Mountain Grapevine.

I lightly use [Distant View] magic to look at her, she's looking down at the great river from atop of a boulder.

Is it just my imagination or does she look melancholic.

"I haven't looked into it, but since Oyugock Dukedom party are in the royal

capital, I will ask them later."
"Thank you."

We followed behind the imperial party while having that conversation.

My Attentive Ears skill picked the secret talk between the imperial girl who turned around and glanced here and her lady-in-waiting.

"This was the first time I saw Aunt Maryest intimately conversed with someone besides Hero-sama."

"That person is Viscount Pendragon-sama who subjugated the demon lord together with Hero Hayato-sama."

"My, that is the one? He's quite young isn't he."

"He's the same age as my lady."

The imperial girl steals a glance here in a different meaning than earlier. It'd be rude of me to ignore her so I smiled back once.

"Satou, do you prefer a quiet girl like that more than a girl like Rin?"

Ms Maryest asked in whisper.

The imperial girl who seems normal looks preferable compared to the siscon Lady Ringrande who's hard to handle.

"Both of them are beautiful, but I don't fall in love with younger girls."

Ms Maryest is 22, so from my point of view she's also younger.

She feels older than that since she's composed though.

"Really? I heard that men prefer younger girls though?"

"It depends on the person. I personally prefer girls that are older than me."

Specifically about 100 million year old.

"...I see."

Ms Maryest closed the topic after that.

Afterward, they announced their gratitude and conferred medals to me for having saved Hero Meiko and the matter with demon lord subjugation.

I got several kinds of medals from Saga Empire and was acknowledged as a Saint by Parion Temple.

Trimenus the imperial girl who's acting as the ambassador seems to be a candidate for the first wife of the eldest son of the next king, First Prince Soltrick.

The imperial girl is 16 so she's come to age, but the eldest son of the first prince is still 10, thus she's treated as his fiancee for the time being.

According to an aide of the first prince, some were clamoring for princess Maryest to be put forth as a candidate for the first prince's wife, but since the hierarchy of his wives would get complicated then, it was settled with having Trimenus as a candidate for the first wife of the son.

It seems you need a sufficient standing in order to become a spouse of a Saga Empire's princess.



"Shrimp tempura cooked by Satou-dono are special after all."
"Nein! Satou-dono's red ginger tempura is the supreme one!"

Evening of the day of Saga Empire's reception, we, [Team Pendragon] was invited to a ball held in Duke Oyugock's royal capital mansion.

We were supposed to be the guests of honor, but I'm doing the cooking with Lulu in order to evade marriage proposals in the ball reception.

Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku have become the barricade.

"-Ande-sama!"

I could hear clamors from the mansion's entrance.

The ball hall's door opened with a thud and a beauty in knight attires showed up.

"""Ringrande-sama!"""

Lady Ringrande who was in Mt. Grapevine this noon went around to greet nobles of Oyugock Dukedom while smiling vigorously.

She's fast, even with Flying Horse.

She might have gotten a new kind of ride.

"Grandfather, father, it has been awhile."

"Rin! You're alive!"

Lady Ringrande's father hugs her while shedding tears.

"You've done well to complete your mission. I'm proud of you."

The duke had tears on the corner of his eyes even while announcing that dignifiedly.

It appears Lady Ringrande didn't come home and went straight to support hero Meiko after the demon lord subjugation.

While I was warmly watching that scene full of familial love, the tempura had disappeared into the belly of gourmet nobles of Oyugock Dukedom, and I was taken away to an after party to commemorate, organized by Toruma.

The after party in this world is something like a drinking party, so I've urged the girls go home ahead of me.

"You're really, you never change even after becoming demon lord slayer do you?"

"Humans don't change that easily."

Lady Ringrande who brought an expensive looking wine bottle with her plopped down beside me.

While I was sipping the wine glass, Lady Ringrande told me about what happened to Hero Meiko after she returned to Saga Empire.

"She was a bit unstable emotionally, but she did her job and went around to visit places where many disasters happened due to monsters together with Parion Temple's priests to offer help."

After saying that in normal tone, Lady Ringrande pulled my ear and told me extra info.

"Saga Empire has summoned other heroes besides Meiko. I don't know the exact number but I'm sure it's not only one. They have at least summoned more than two heroes."

Un, I knew.

"Hero summoning requires an enormous amount of mana and prayer to gods. They shouldn't have been able to easily do the summoning like this. Perhaps, the empire meddled in something they shouldn't put their hands on...."

Lady Ringrande muttered while looking anxious.

She looks really sexy, but please at least realize that you're at a distance where I can feel your breath.

The nobles around us have been sending curious glances like crazy here.

"Oh Rin! I have no objection if your marriage partner is Pendragon!"

The drunken duke instigated, and the other nobles were quick to follow suit.

"That's a good idea! Satou's and Rin's child is sure to be a hero that leaves marks in the history!"

Toruma who reeked of alcohol hugged the two us who then got glued together.

"That sounds nice. If Hayato isn't here-"

Lady Ringrande muttered while looking anguished, and then she leaned coquettishly on me.

She looks quite wasted.

The surroundings sent high pitched screams and hoarse booing here. But you guys were cheering just now, so cruel.

The duke and Lady Ringrande's father look satisfied.

"Mwu."

"Guilty!!!"

"Ane-sama!!"

I heard those voices from the hall's entrance.

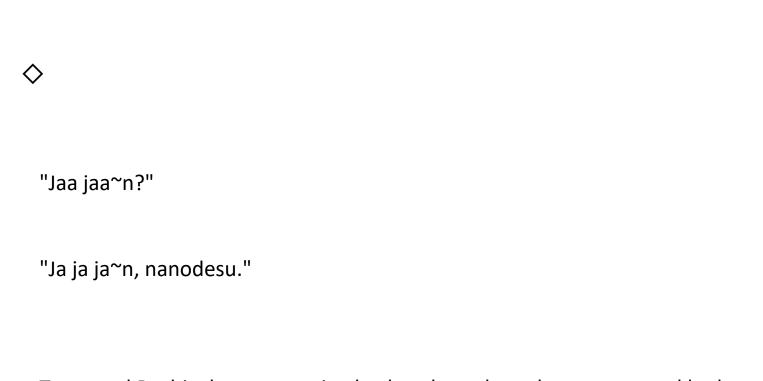
I saw the impregnable fortress pair and Sera who came to get me coming here at a quick pace with indignant look on their faces.

You girls, this is an act of god you see.

16-4. Inspections

Satou here. In my programming days, I was able to pull through the overtime hell while enduring myself from flipping out by the jostling waves of frequent spec change by the whims of my superior and clients.

However, just because I went through it, coercing my subordinates to also go through it like it's only natural when I'm the one on top feels wrong somehow.

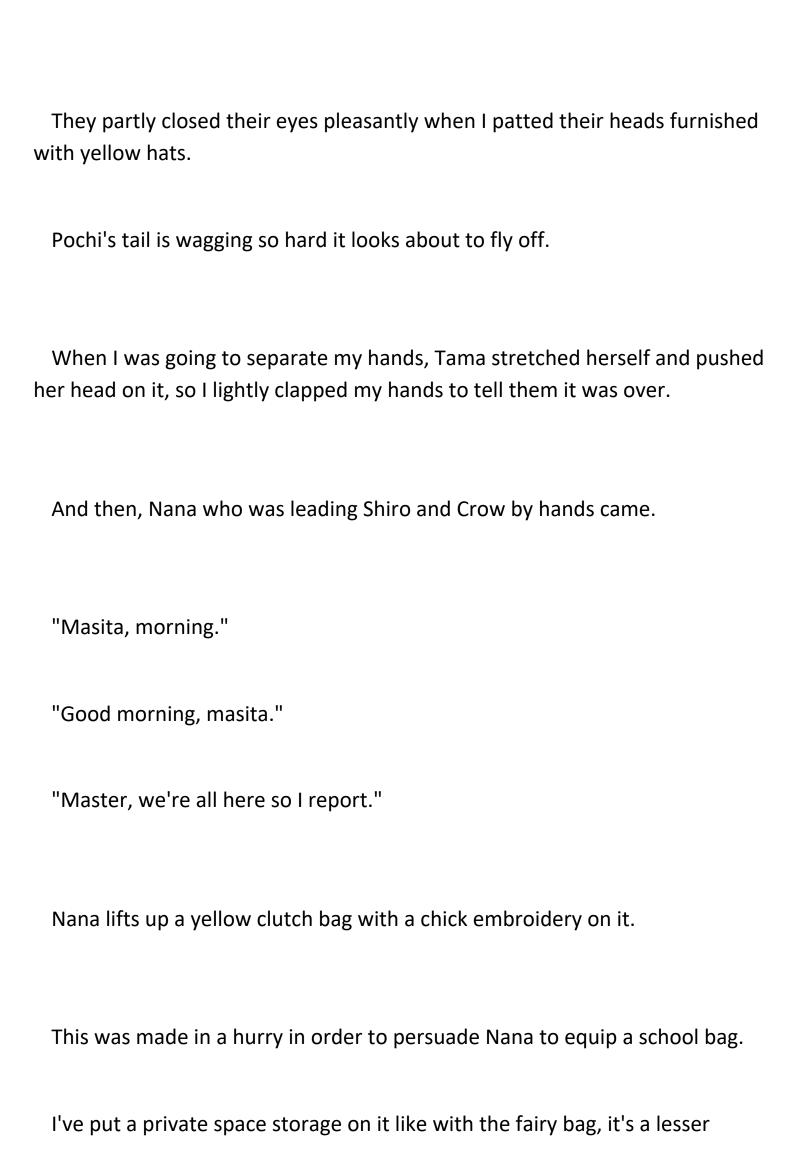


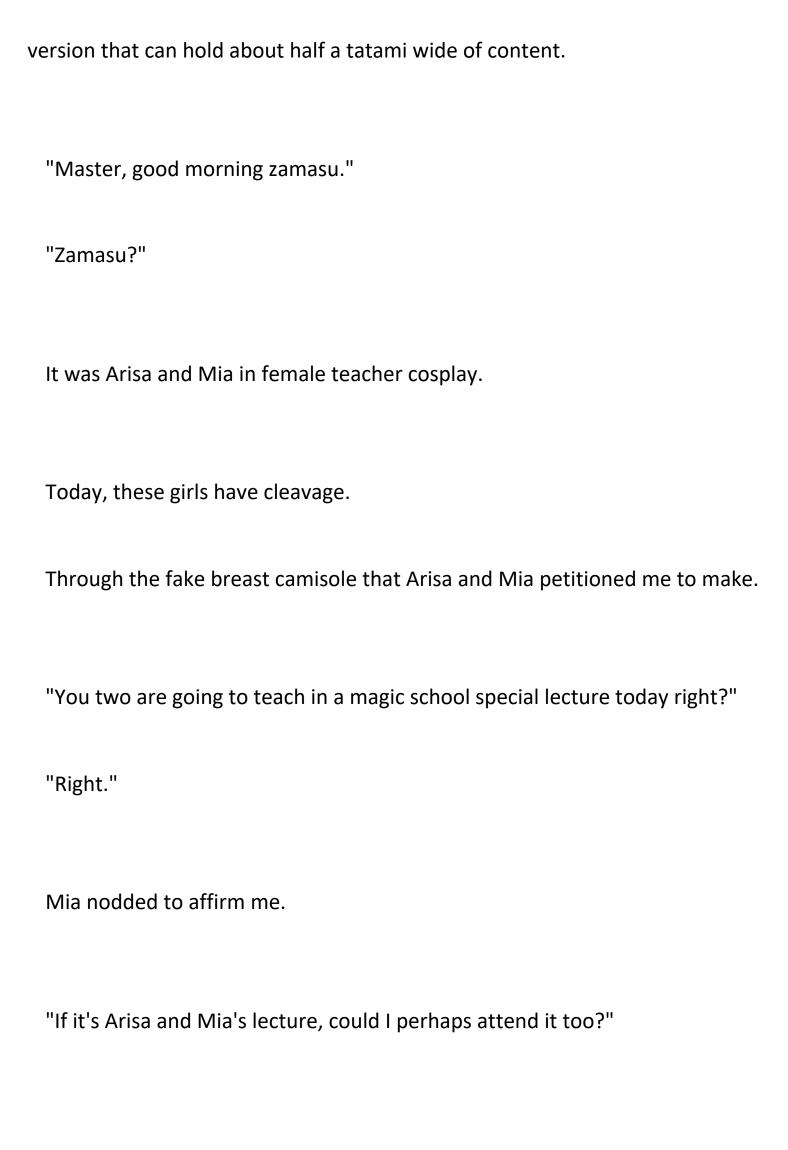
Tama and Pochi who are wearing backpacks make a shutan pose and look at me.

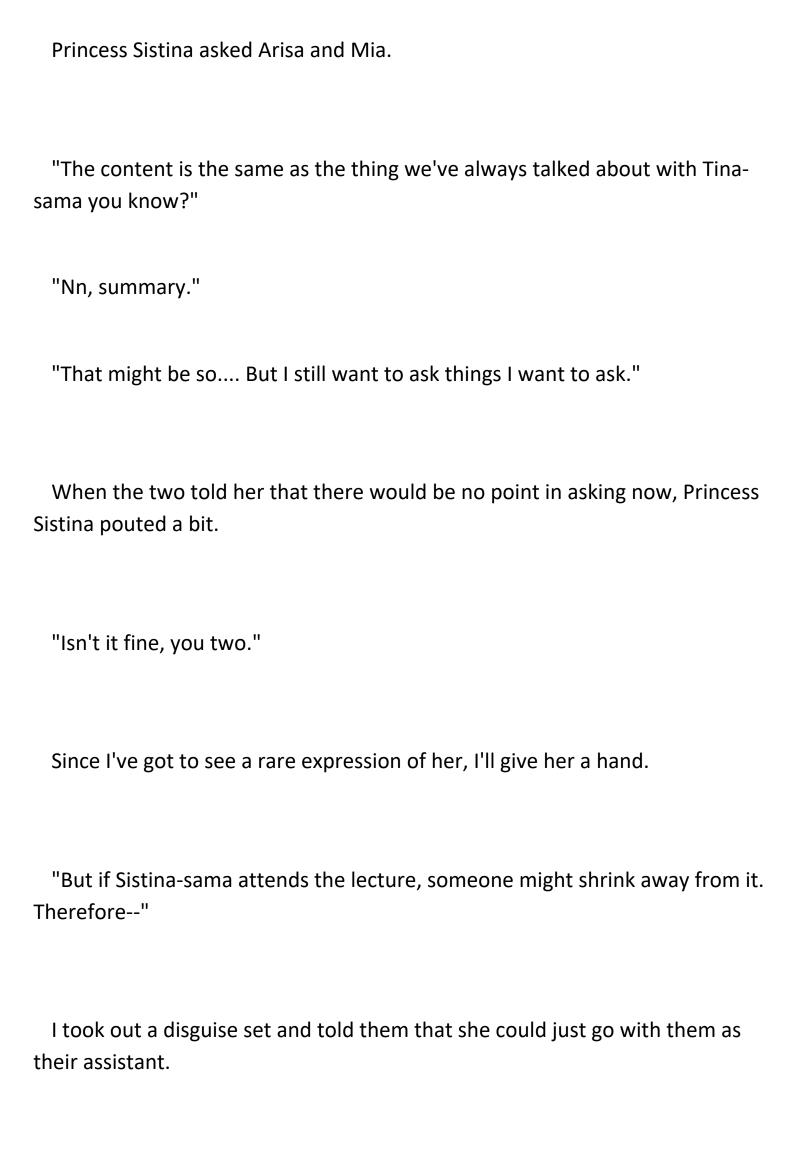
"You two look cute."

"Nihehehe~?"

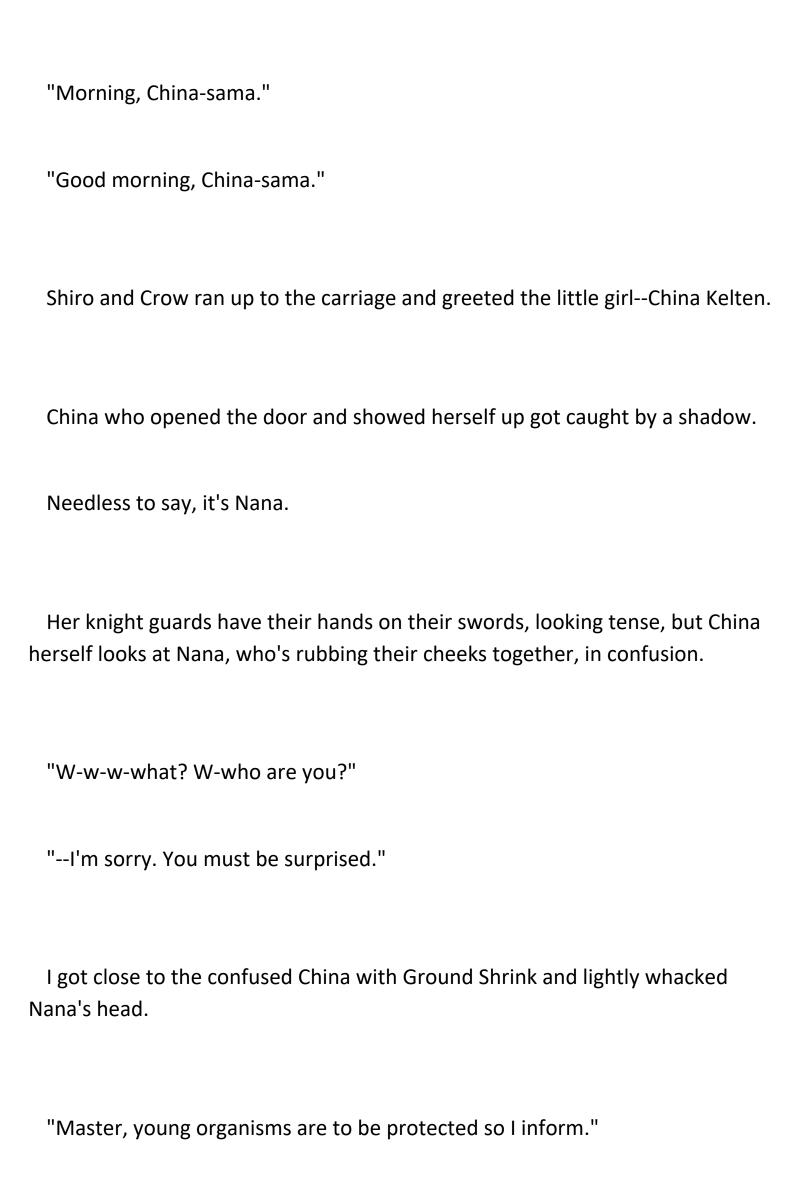
"Pochi is getting embarrassed nodesu."

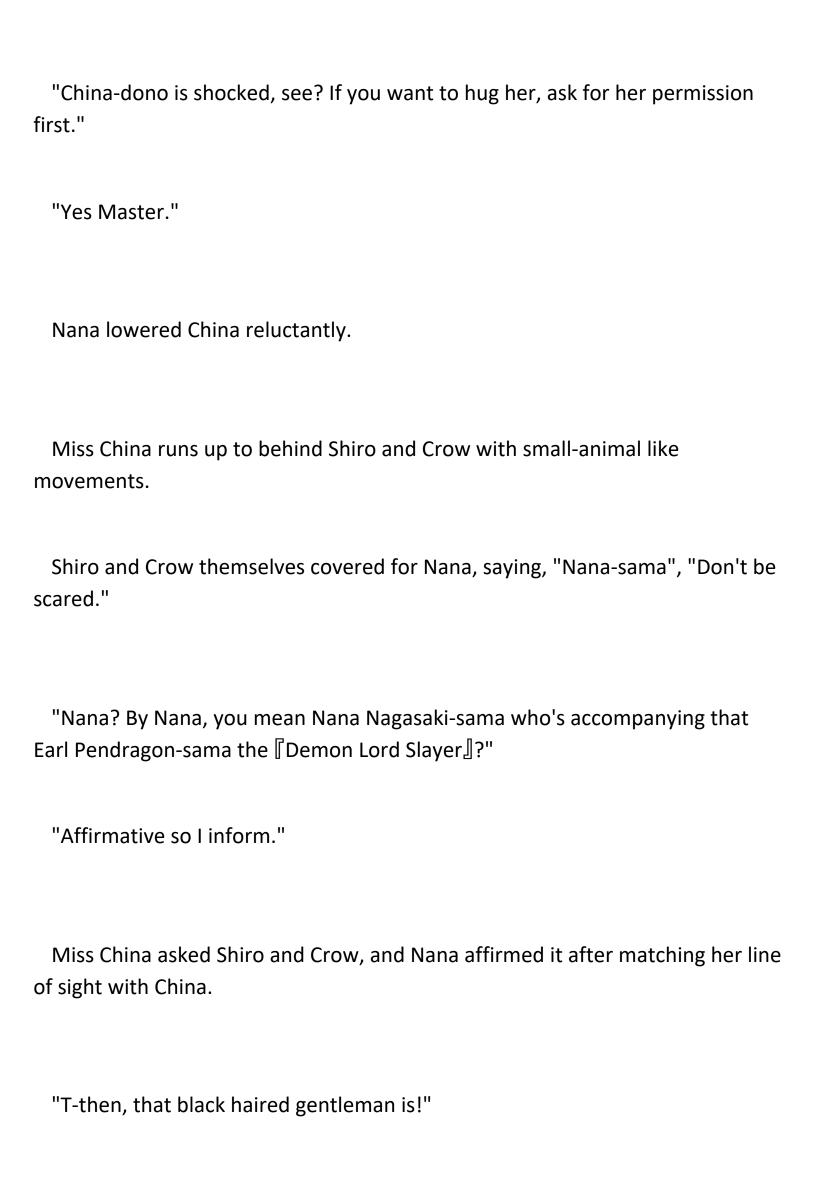




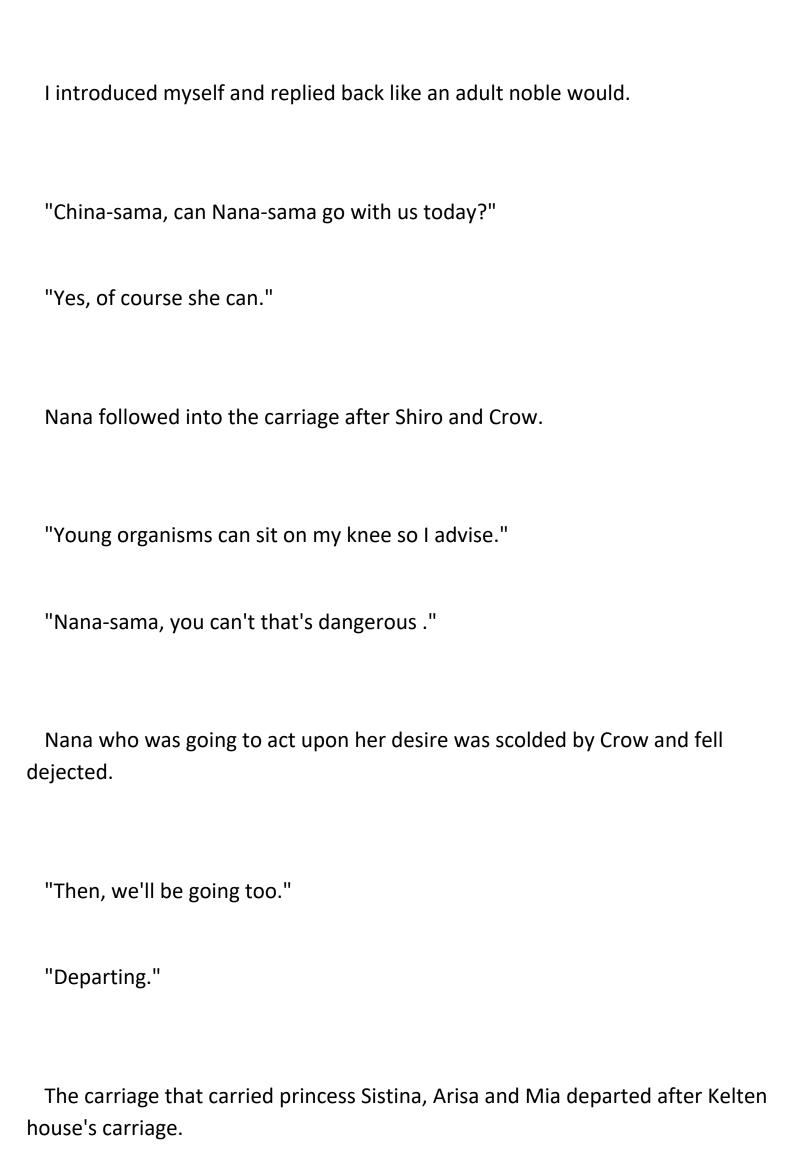


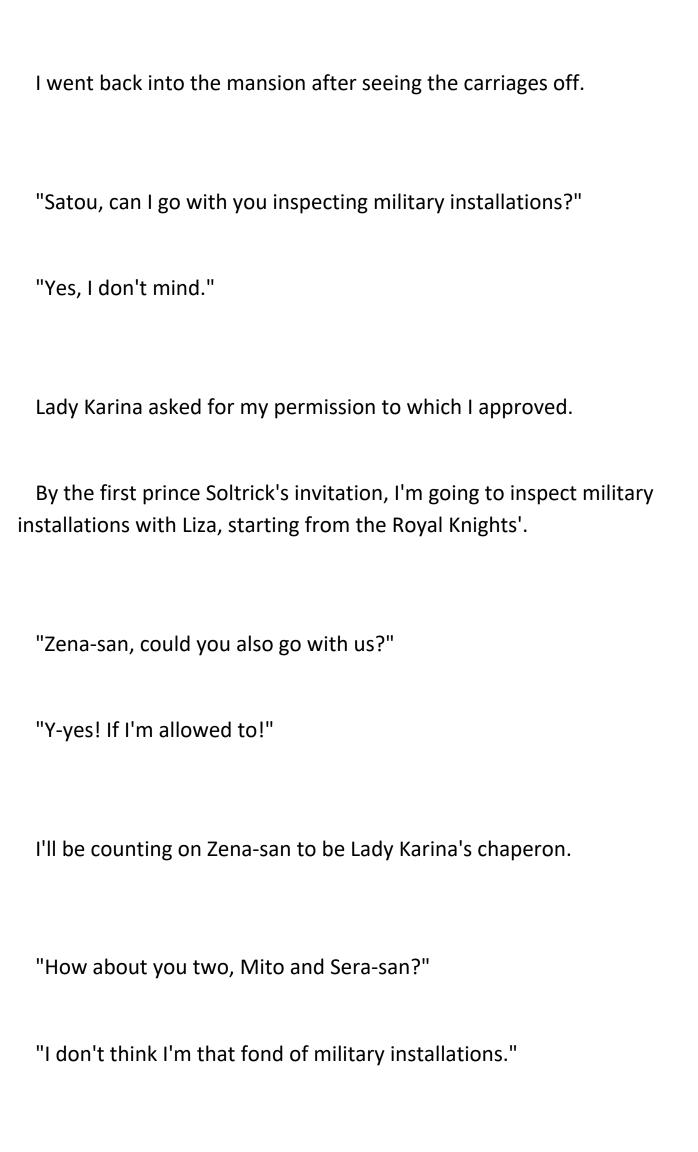


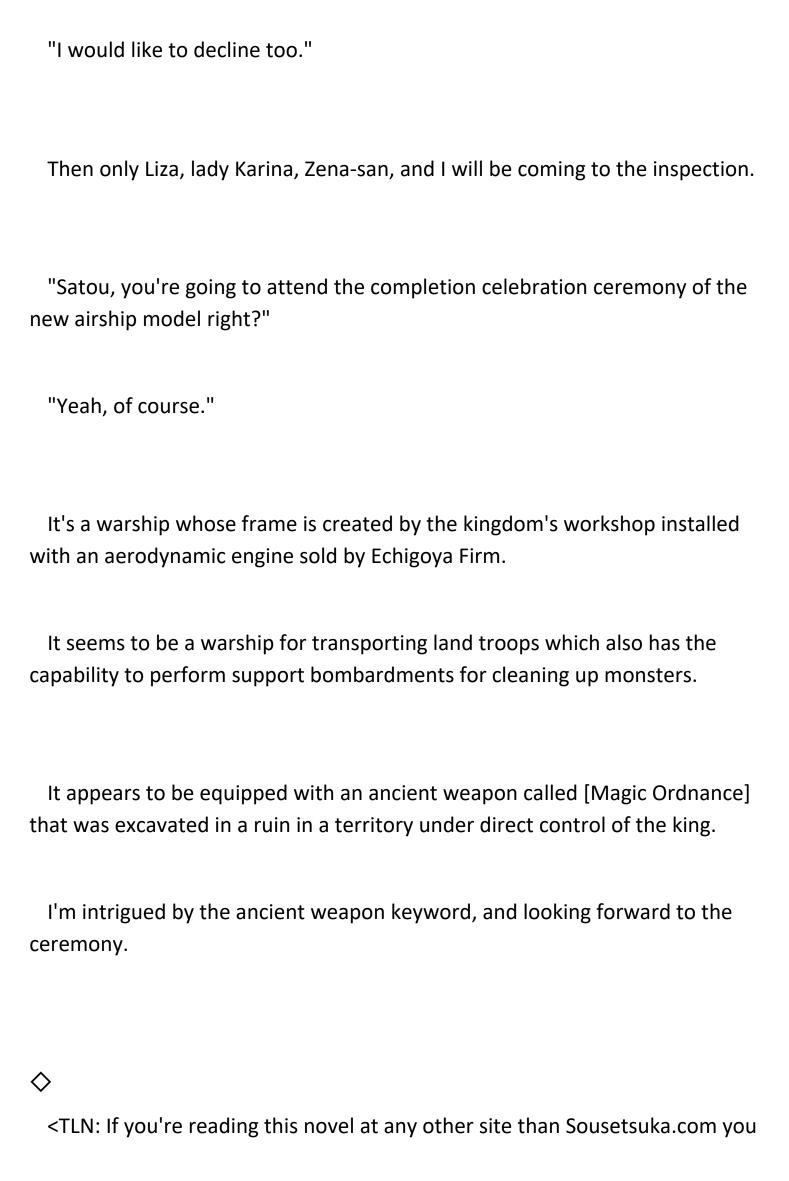
















I heard gluttonous voices the moment I opened the door.

Aoi boy who looked like nothing but a beautiful girl when I first met him has grown taller and had slight voice change, gradually looking less and less like a girl.

"Ah! Kuro-sama and Elterina-sama, hello!"

"What, I haven't completed my invention yet y'know?"

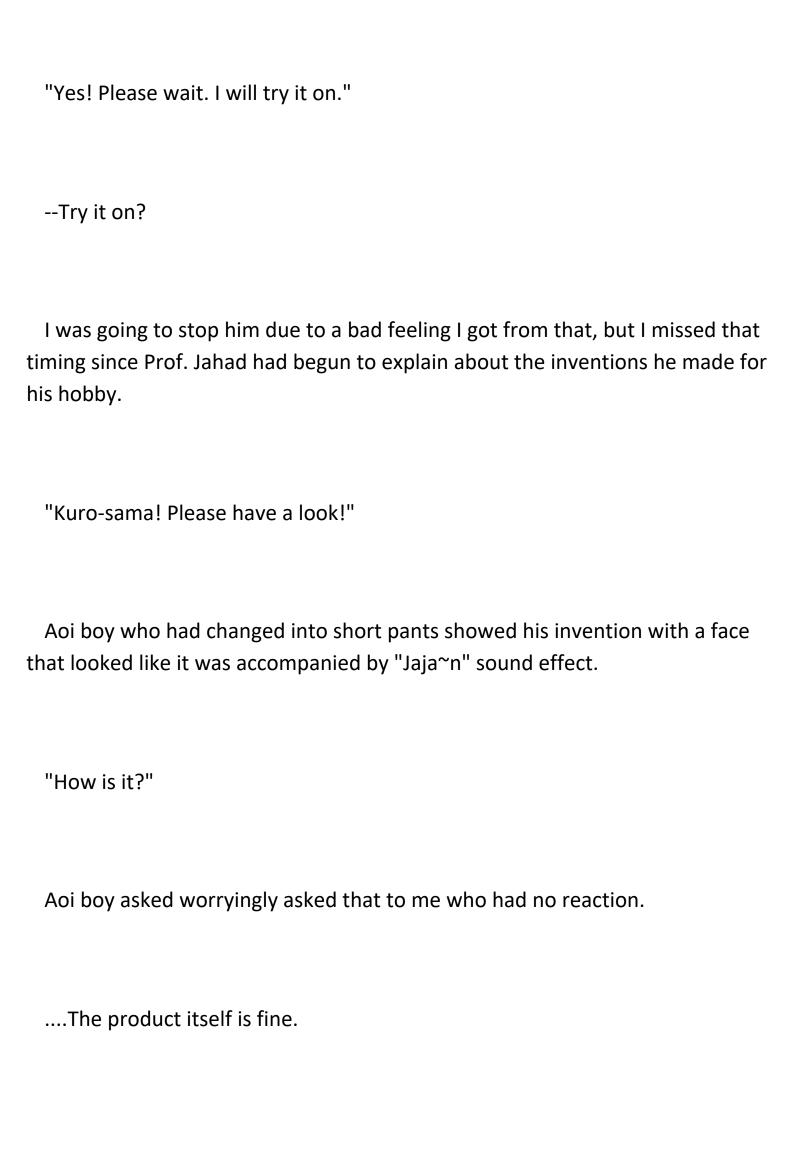
In contrast to Aoi boy who greeted us when he noticed, Prof. Jahad only snorted grumpily. Guess there's a reason he's famous as an odd person.

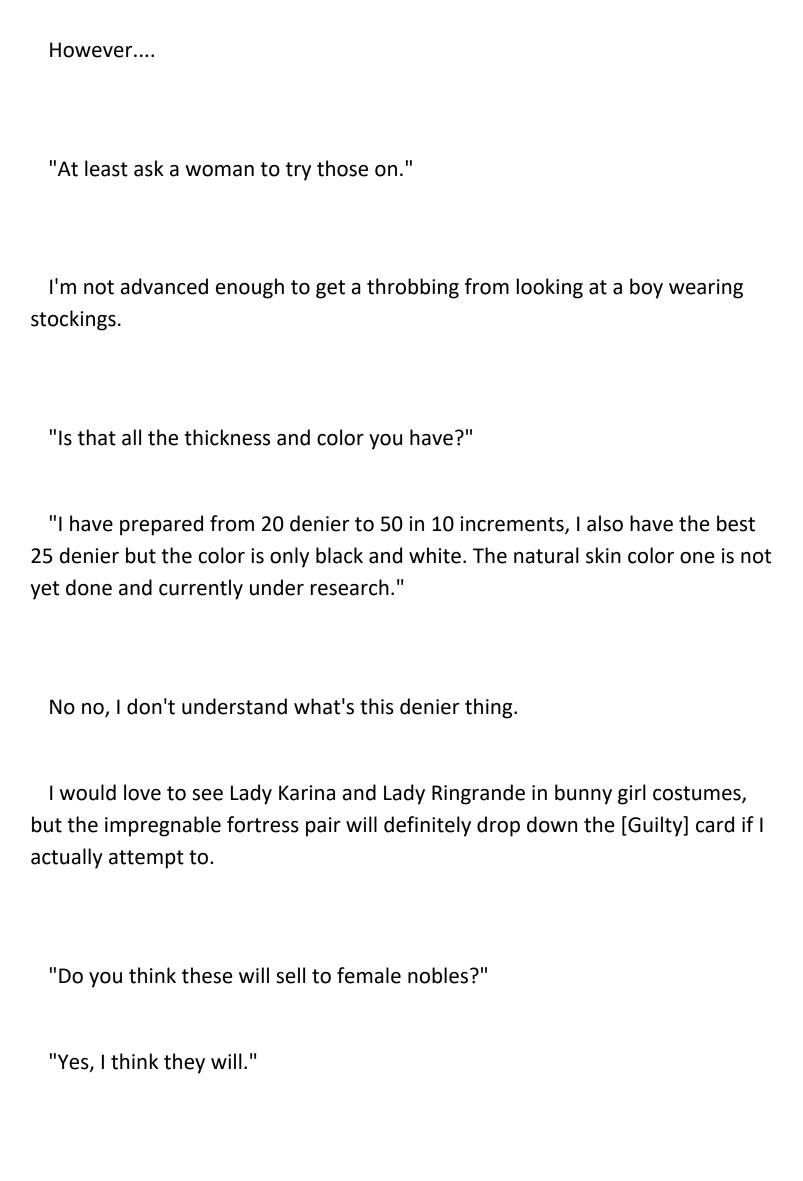
Prof. Jahad is currently researching a [Magic tool that can reciprocally produce mana and electricity.]

He successfully made a magic tool that could produce electricity from mana right away, but he's having a hard time making the opposite.

"That's cause Prof is always playing with the motor isn't it?"

"Fool! I'm trying to find out the principle and trait of [Motor] to investigate the connection between it and magic tools with similar effect."
Prof Jahad replied back Aoi boy with a plausible explanation, but his sweat streaming down his cheeks and averted line of sights snatched away the credibility of his words.
Electric motors probably look very fascinating for a rotation maniac like him.
"I don't mind. The mechanism that alters a part of aerodynamic engine's buoyancy to propulsion is enough for the present term. Turn your current invention for the next term."
Although it's not usable for large airships, this mechanism can greatly lower the cost of small airships if installed.
Presently, it's only equipped in airships made by Echigoya Firm, but since I've released the theory behind it to the Royal Academy, other factories should make use of it too before long.
I turn to Aoi boy next.
"I heard from the report that you've made a prototype?"





The manager promptly replied.
Since these make your legs look thinner, even commoners probably will end up wanting them too besides the noble girls.
"I'll leave the marketing strategy to manager. Ideally it should be accessible to people other than nobles in five years."
"Understood."
The manager affirmed.
Her face looks fully eager to wring out the ladies.
If we overcharge them, we can probably recoup the cost of the workshop and product development in five years.
Because there's a lot of nobles who like [Something Special] even if it's expensive.
"Aoi, you've showed better results than expectation. We will give you vacation time and extra bonus. You can rest your body at the recreational



Research about Aoi boy's idea, the instant food, is split with several researchers and progressing even now. Producing it is possible but it needs magicians and expensive magic tools, so the current objective is to reduce them.

At the magic tool development research department, many are developing consumer goods, and the most popular one is development of golem carriages for nobles.

It'd be disastrous if traffic accidents were to happen, so I've put a limitation that prevents golem carriages from going faster than a normal carriage.

People who wanted to promote their research came and asked for a competition to be held regularly.

The remaining time to inspect the workshop has been considerably reduced because so many researchers were like that.

To save time, I teleported to the workshop.

"Ku-Kuro-sama?!"

"My bad. I'm pressed on time."

I apologized to the surprised Porina and went in to inspect the workshop.

"Looks like there's less exhausted-looking people compared to the last inspection."

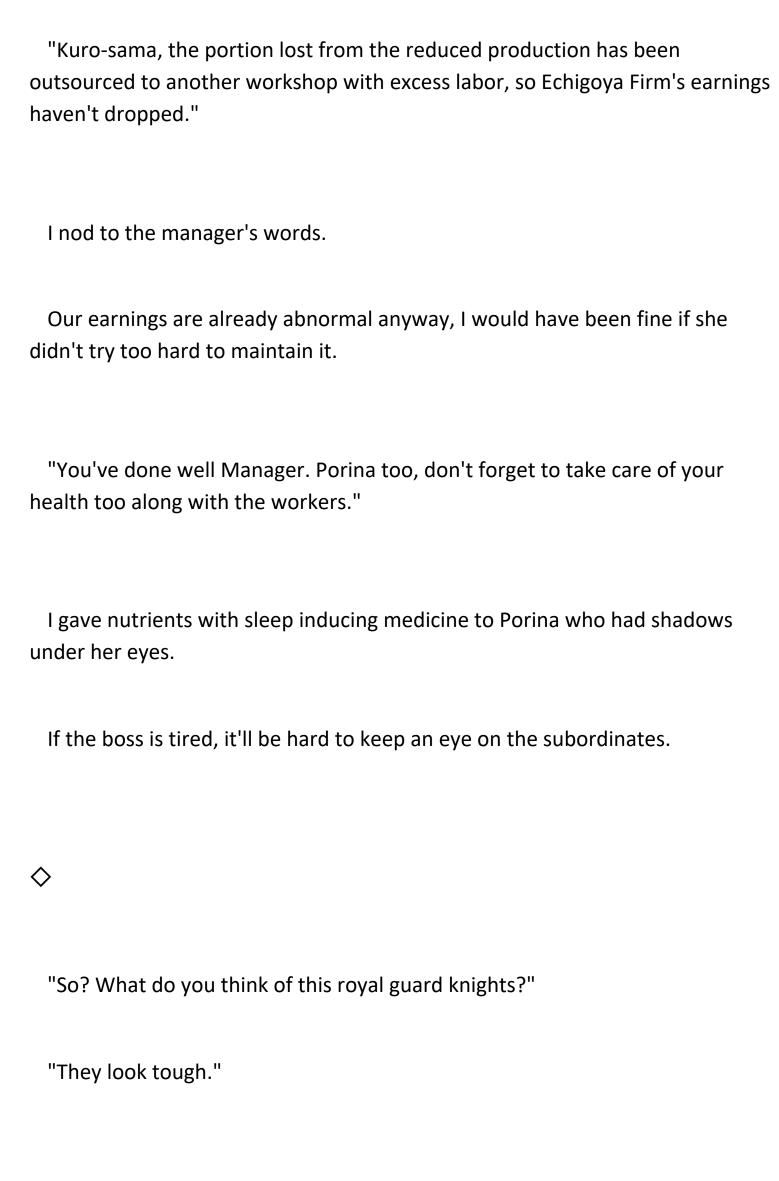
"Yes, just as Kuro-sama has instructed, we have prohibited the workers from coming to work three days straight and given bonus to people who take more than four days off a month, working hours per person has greatly decreased."

When I came here before and looked at the time table, I noticed that there were a lot of people who had excessive work hours like 28-day and 37-day nonstop service, so I ordered her to reduce the workshop's operation time and regulate continuous labor.

"I couldn't believe my ears when Kuro-sama told me to give bonus to people who take days off instead of those who don't, but I was made to admire Kuro-sama's keen insight once again when I saw the workers had regained their energy."

It kinda doesn't feel like a compliment somehow.

Well, guess it's ok. Let's just be satisfied with the success of preventing people dying from overworking in my own workshop.



After finishing Echigoya Firm inspection, I turned back to Satou, took a quick lunch and joined the prince who went to inspect military installations.

We're currently watching royal guard knights training that look like a dance performance.

Zena-san is high-strung because we're with the prince and his aides, while Liza and Lady Karina are looking for strong people whom they can fight with.

These two really stay at their own paces.

"--Tough? Are you telling the truth Sir Pendragon?"

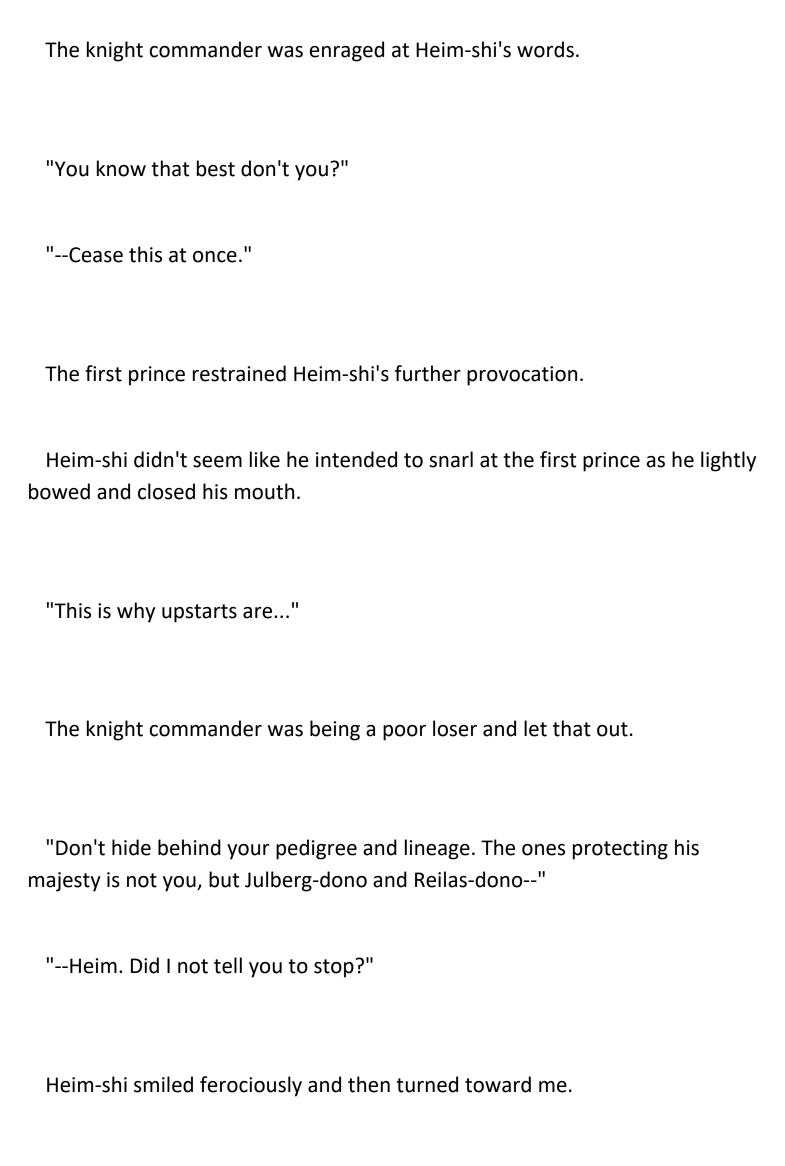
"Who is it!"

The first prince asked for the identity of the person who called me from behind.

The crowd is cut apart like a pulling tide, Sir Heim of Shiga Eight Swords showed up from the formed path.

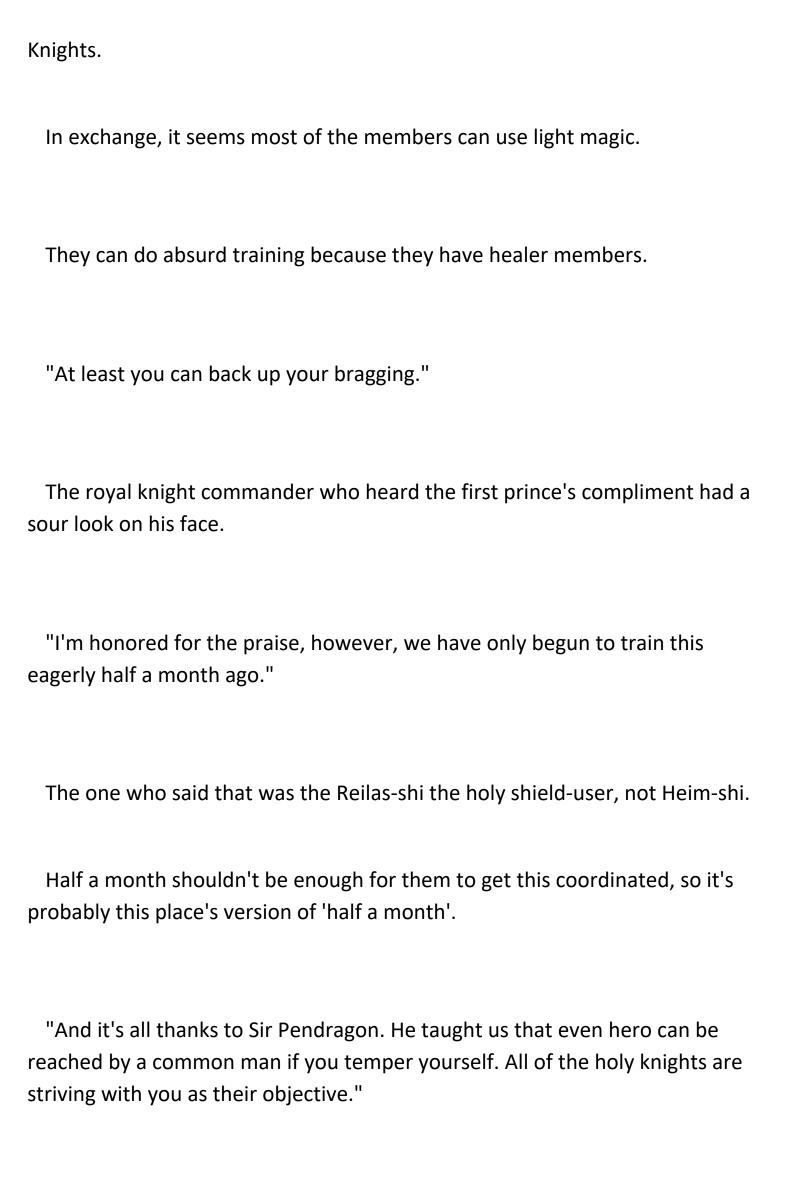
Even though he's wearing first-class knight attires, there's an air of a front line soldier around him somehow.

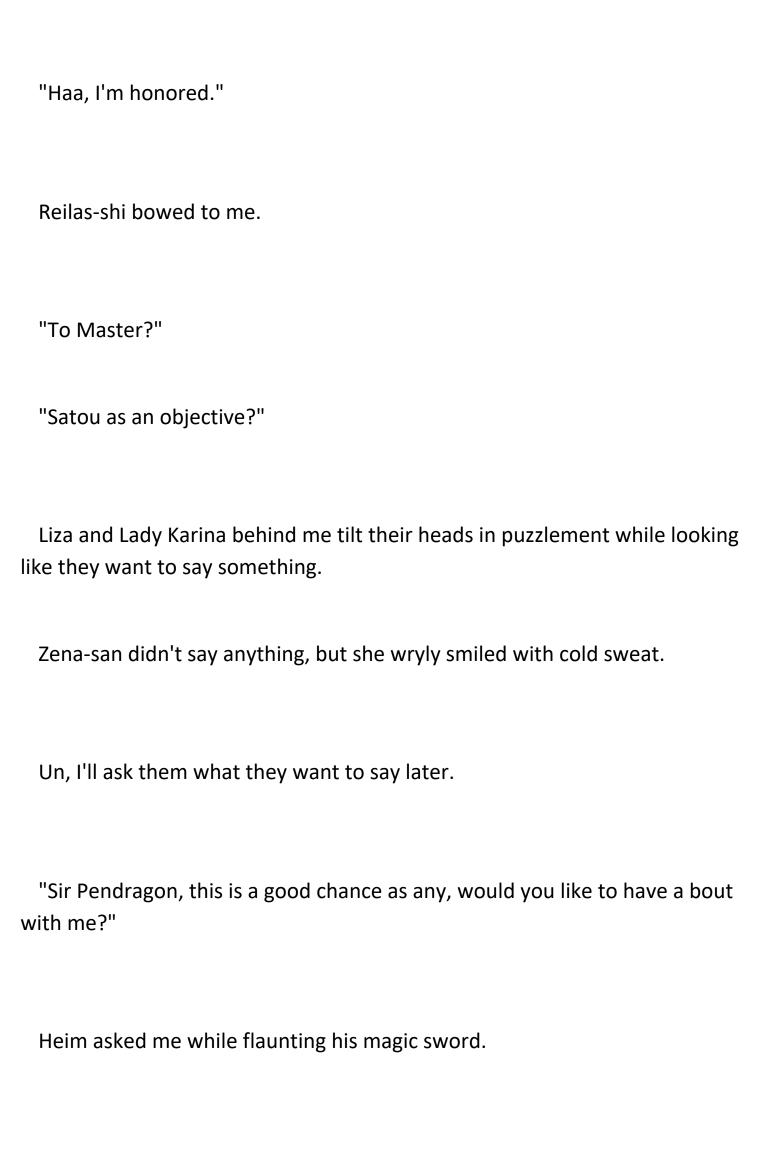


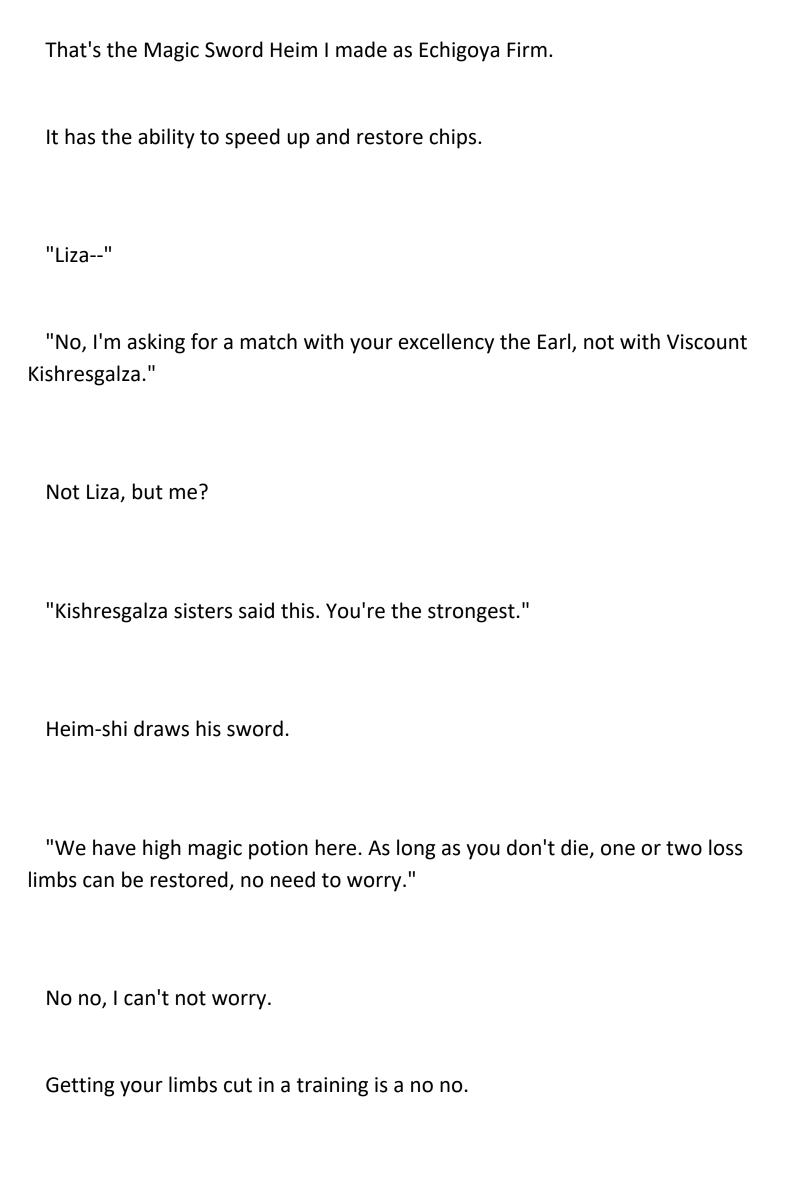






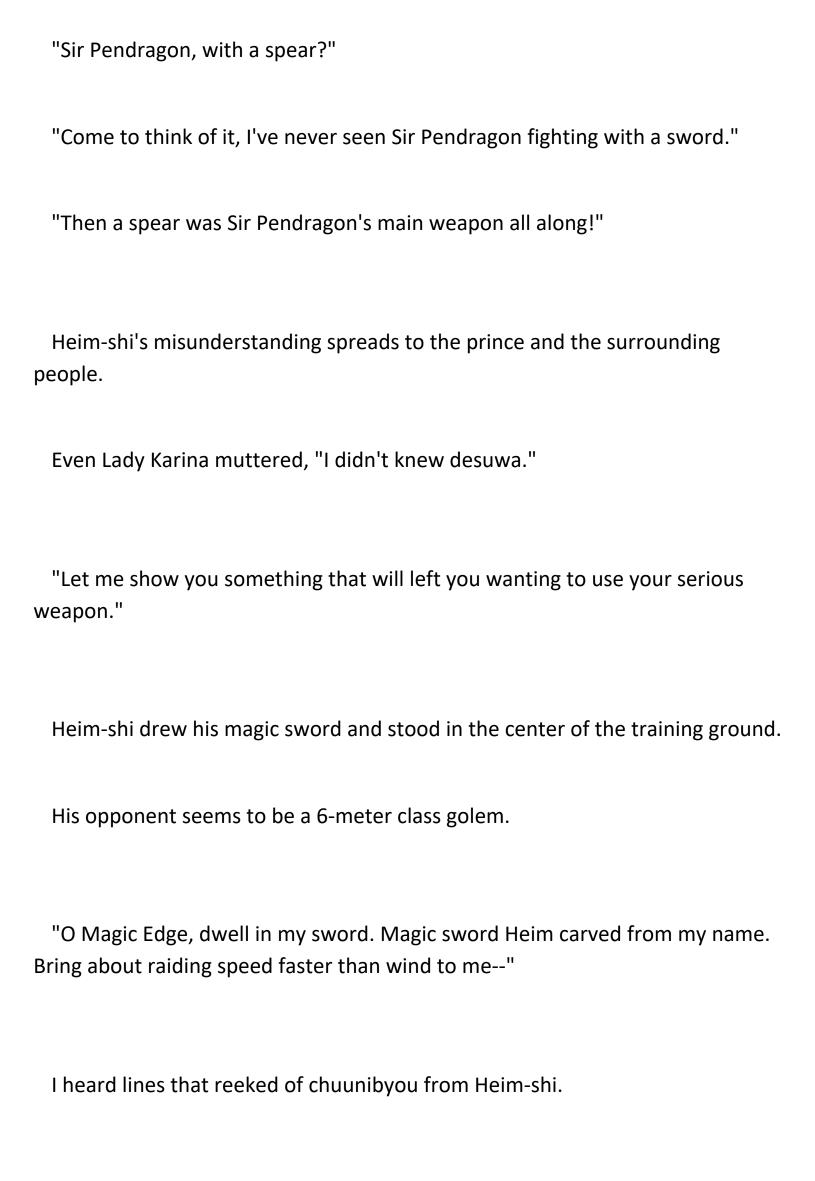




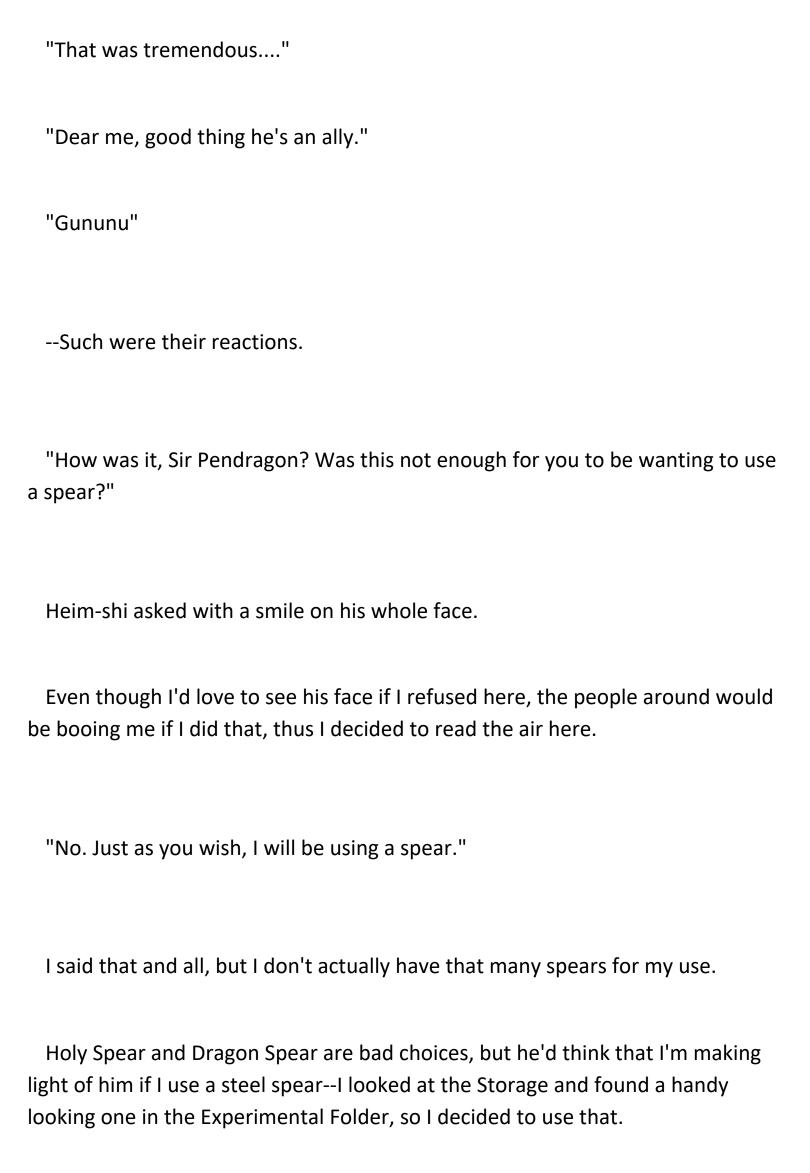


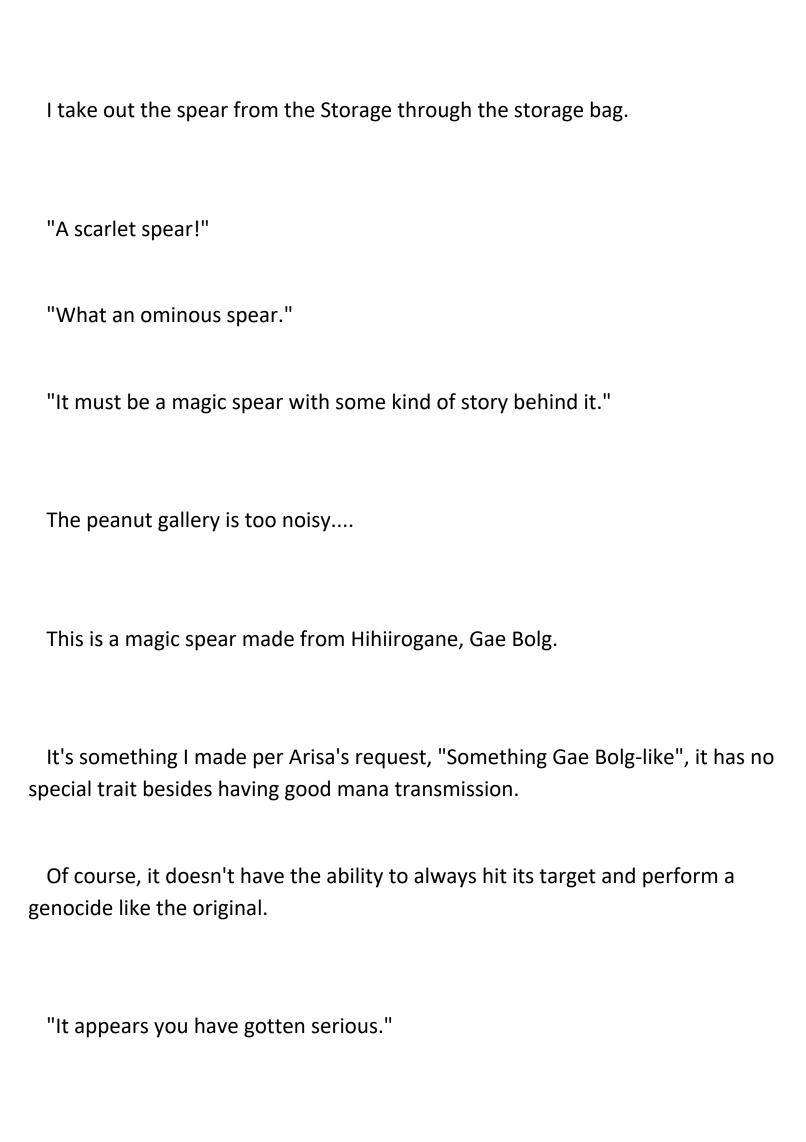


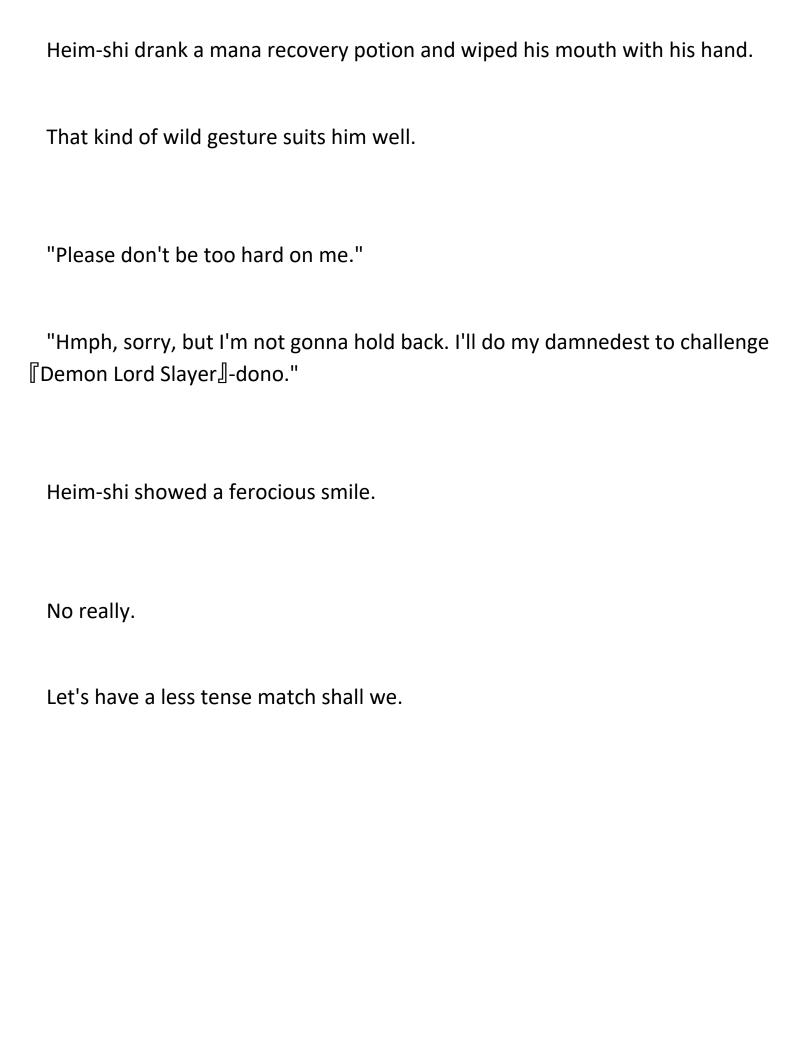








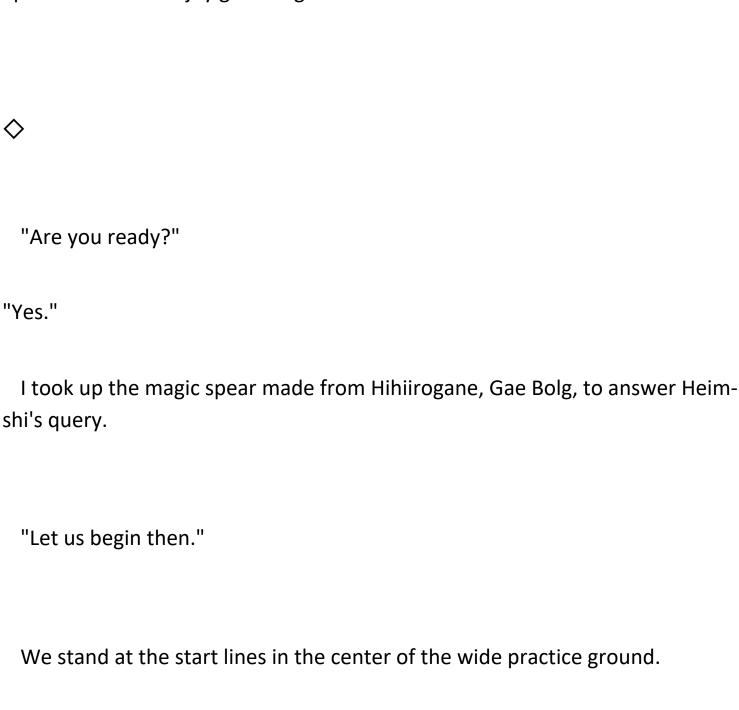




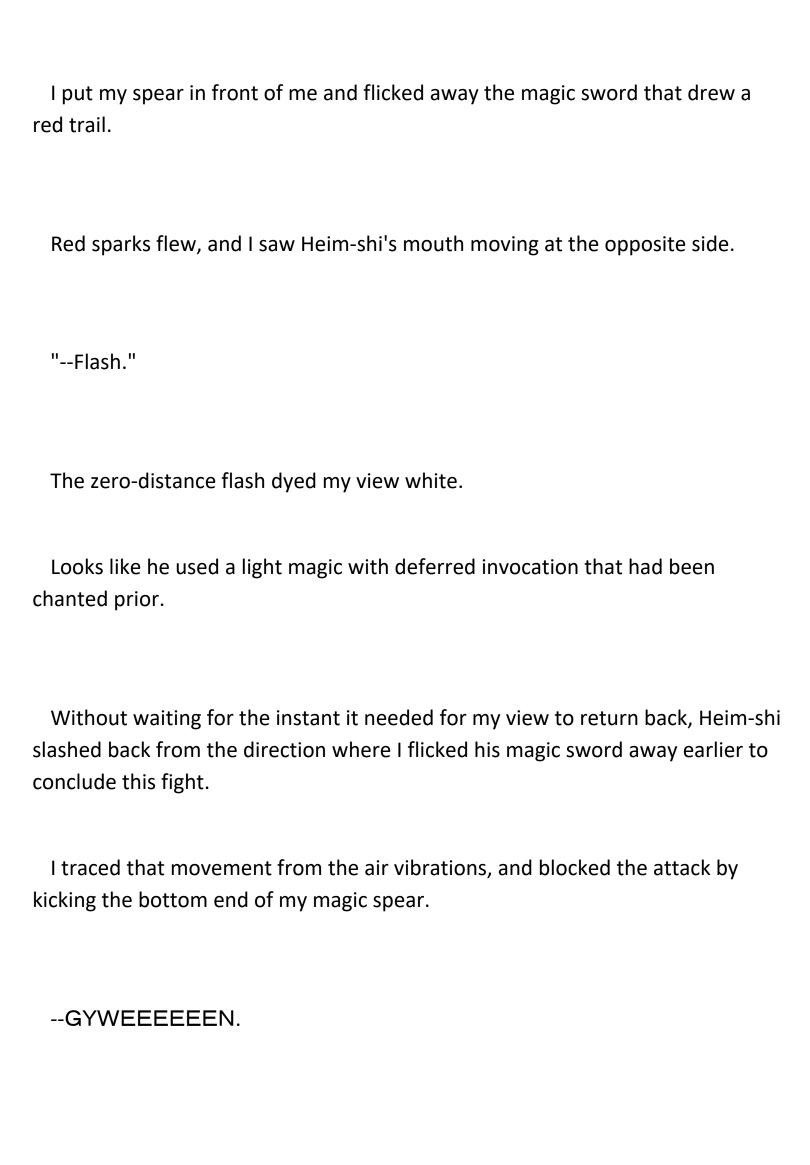
16-5. Various Conclusions

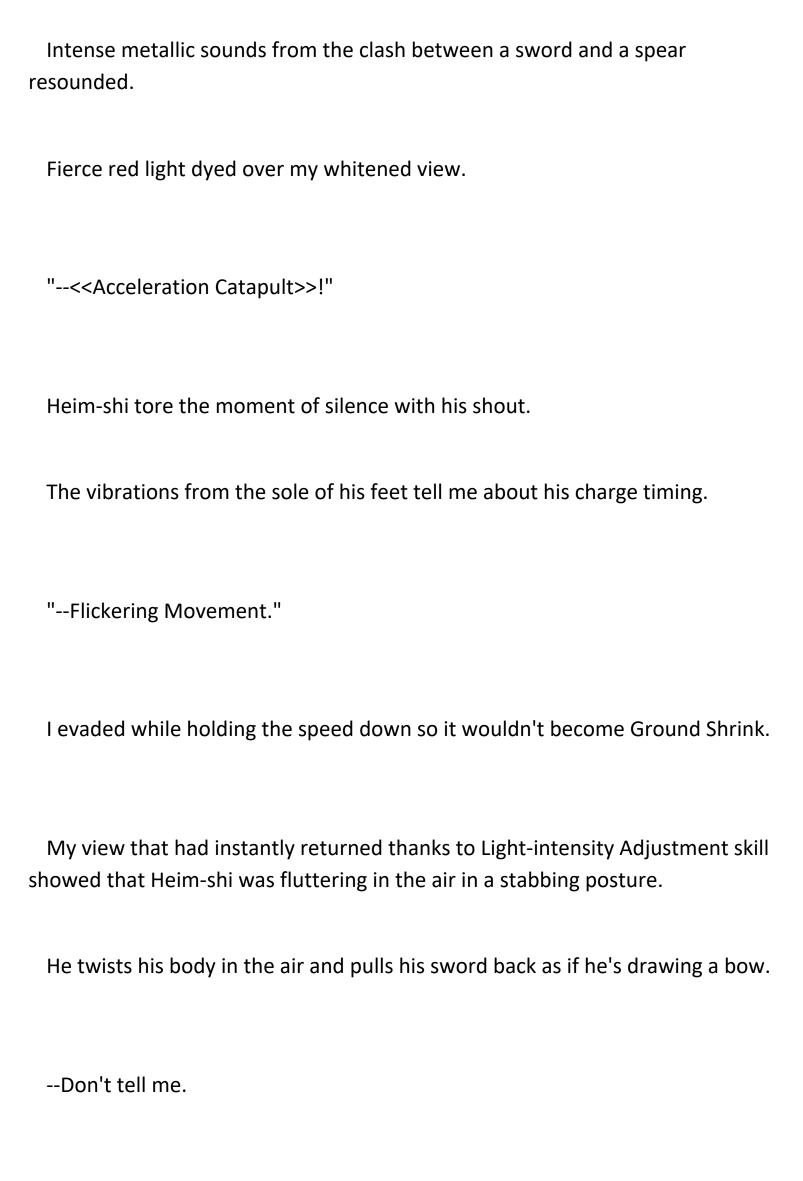
We're about 20 meter apart.

Satou here. I've always been bad at gambling ever since I was a child, maybe I just don't have a talent for it. I got invited to horse-racing and mahjong in my college days, but I still don't get their appeal even now. Perhaps you need the aptitude for it to enjoy gambling.







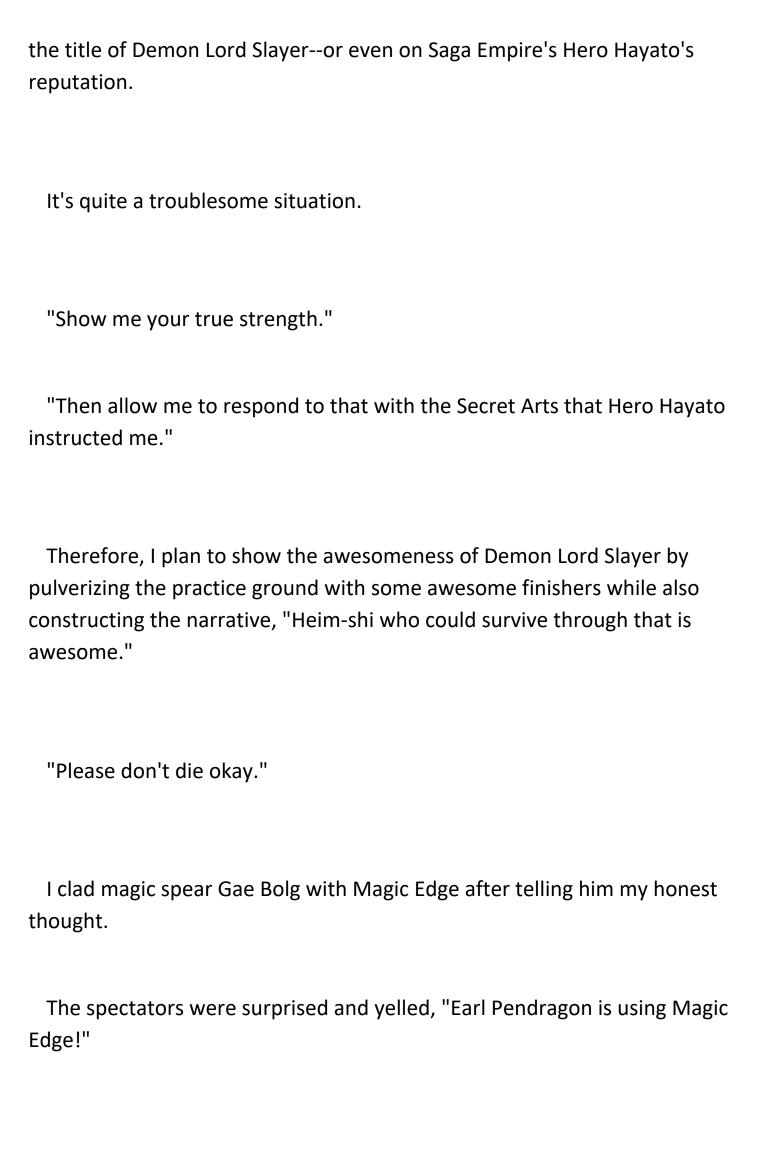




He's probably using this chitchat to recover his mana and fix his breath.
"Monsters are more cunning in their surprise attacks you know. As for the Magic Edge Cannon, I was blessed with a good teacher who taught me about it."
Heim-shi took a glance at Liza when he heard that.
It's actually an elf teacher, not Liza, but since there's no need to amend him, I let the conversation continue.
"Show me the power of your magic spear. This time, I'll receive it all."
Heim-shi said a remark overflowing with sportsmanship.
Since He has [Counter] skill, it's dangerous for me to carelessly use a big move.
Mainly in holding back kind of sense.
I lightly swing the spear and take a low stance.

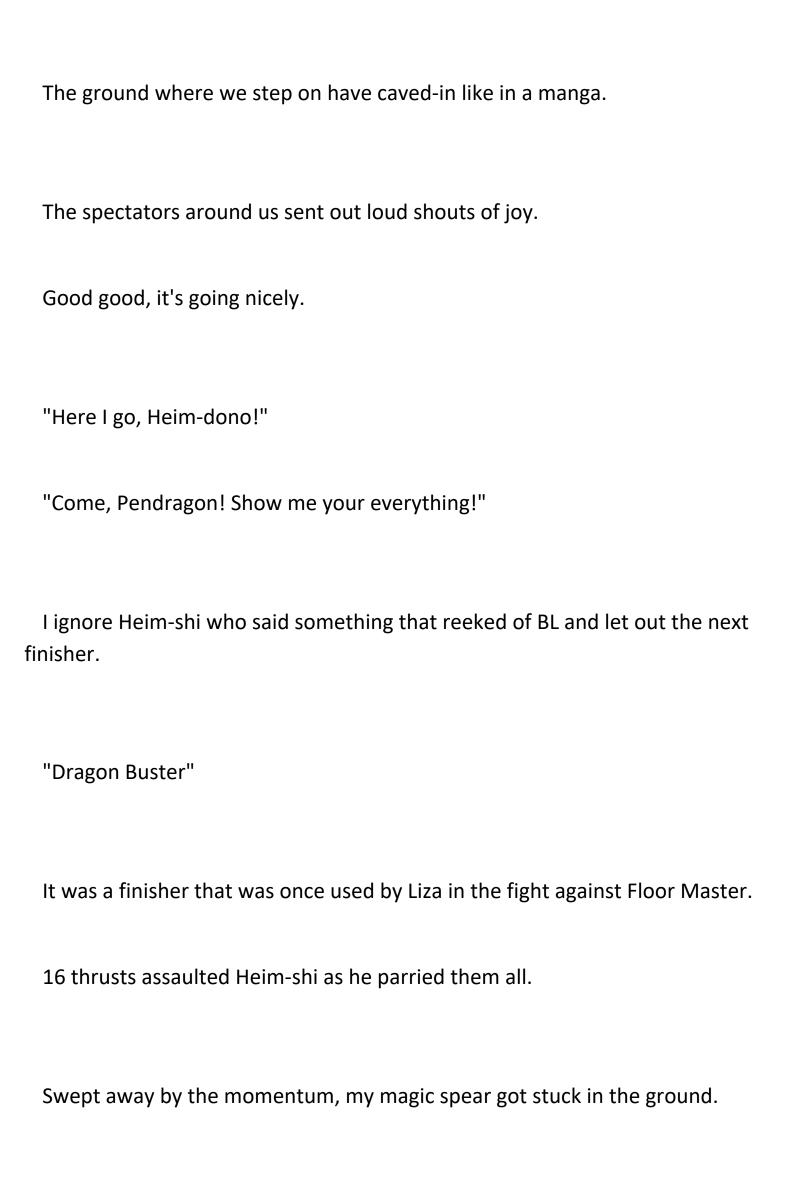
"--Here I come." I rushed forward with Flickering Movement and when I got to one third of the distance, I changed to maximum mode Flickering Movement that Liza and the others use. And then I threw a thrust with the long spear from out of his range. Heim-shi skilfully parried that with his great sword that should have been heavy and slow. It's like he's wielding a rapier. Looks like he had anticipated my Flickering Movement feint as all of my attacks, be it from right or left were all parried. Even when I went around to his back and stabbed at it, he turned around and parried it. As expected of number 2 of Shiga Eight Swords. He might be even stronger than the top seat of Shiga Eight Swords, Julberg-

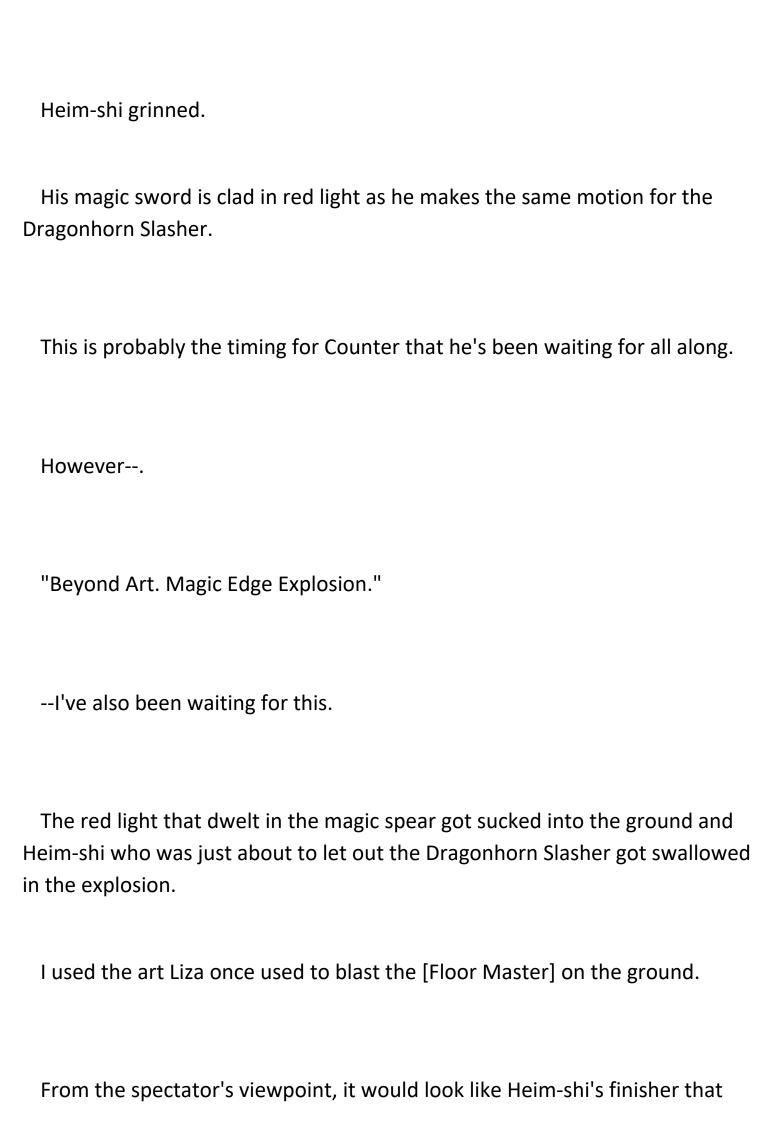
shi.
I opened our distance right when Heim-shi and the spectators were fixing their breaths.
"I expected no less from the one whom Kishresgalza sisters referred to be stronger than them."
Heim-shi is looking for the timing to close in while measuring the gap.
"But you haven't gotten serious even now do you?"
How'd he find out.
I'm even using water magic [Sweating] and composite magic [< <fake fight="" hard="">>] for this.</fake>
Ideally, I'd like this fight to be a draw, but he will likely find out if I do it carelessly.
On the other hand, winning too easily will lower the brand of Shiga Eight Sword, while losing too easily will put a stain on Liza and the others' honor and

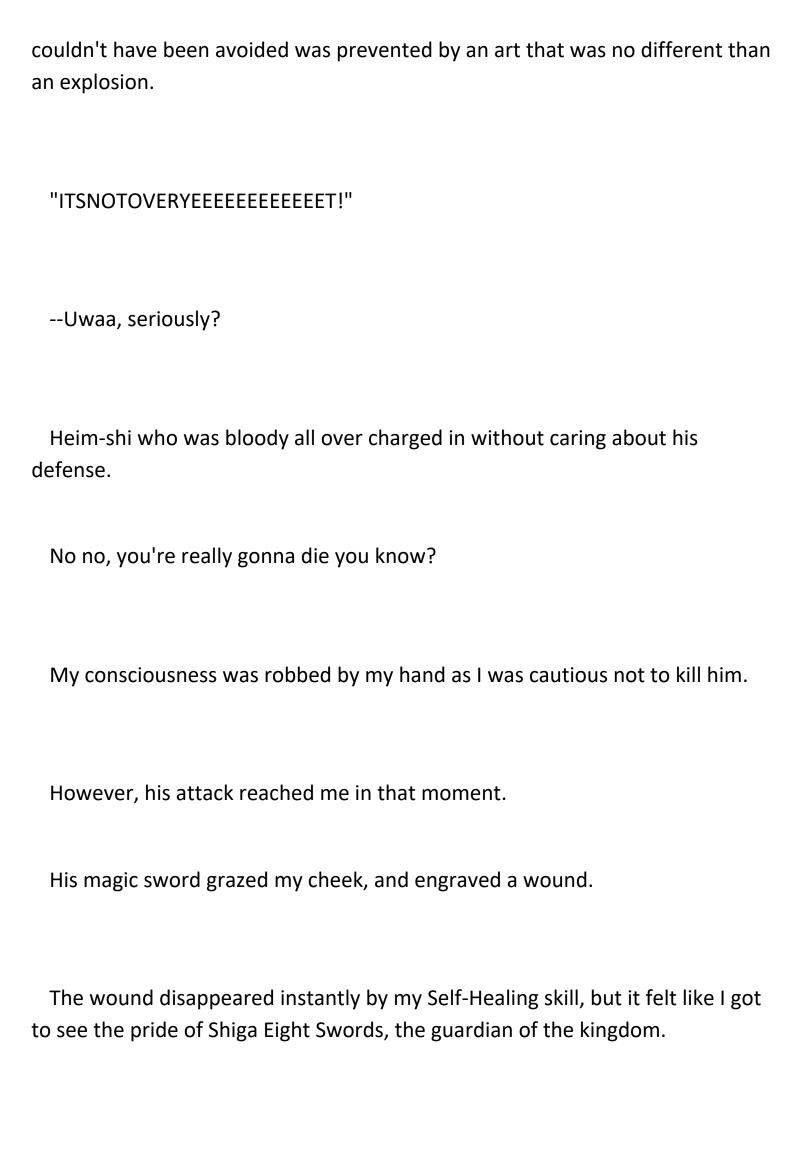














<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Sir Pendragon, you have shown me your true strength."

Heim-shi who was about to die has already recovered enough to walk with the healing of magicians that were on standby at the practice ground.

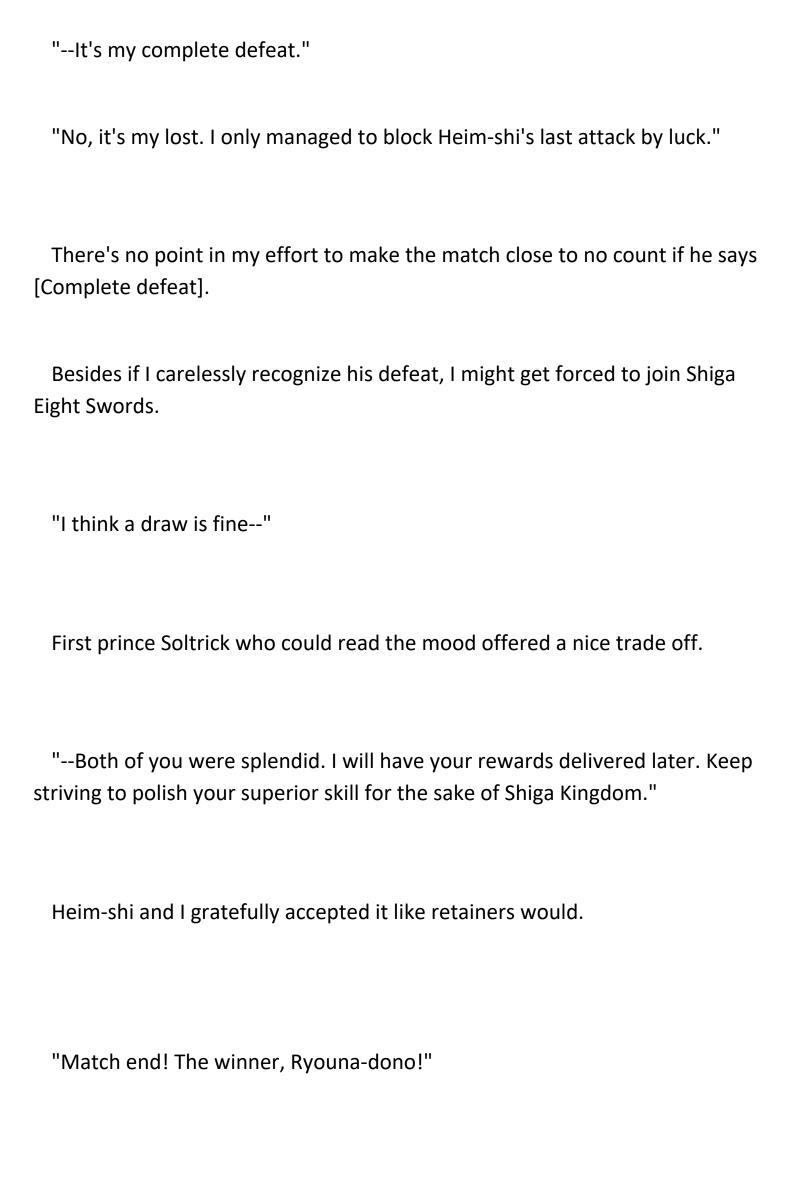
Behind him, huge golems have been made to line up by earth magicians at the practice ground as Lady Karin and Shiga Eight Sword Miss Ryouna the [Mower] fight there.

Looks like they had agreed to have a fight when we were fighting.

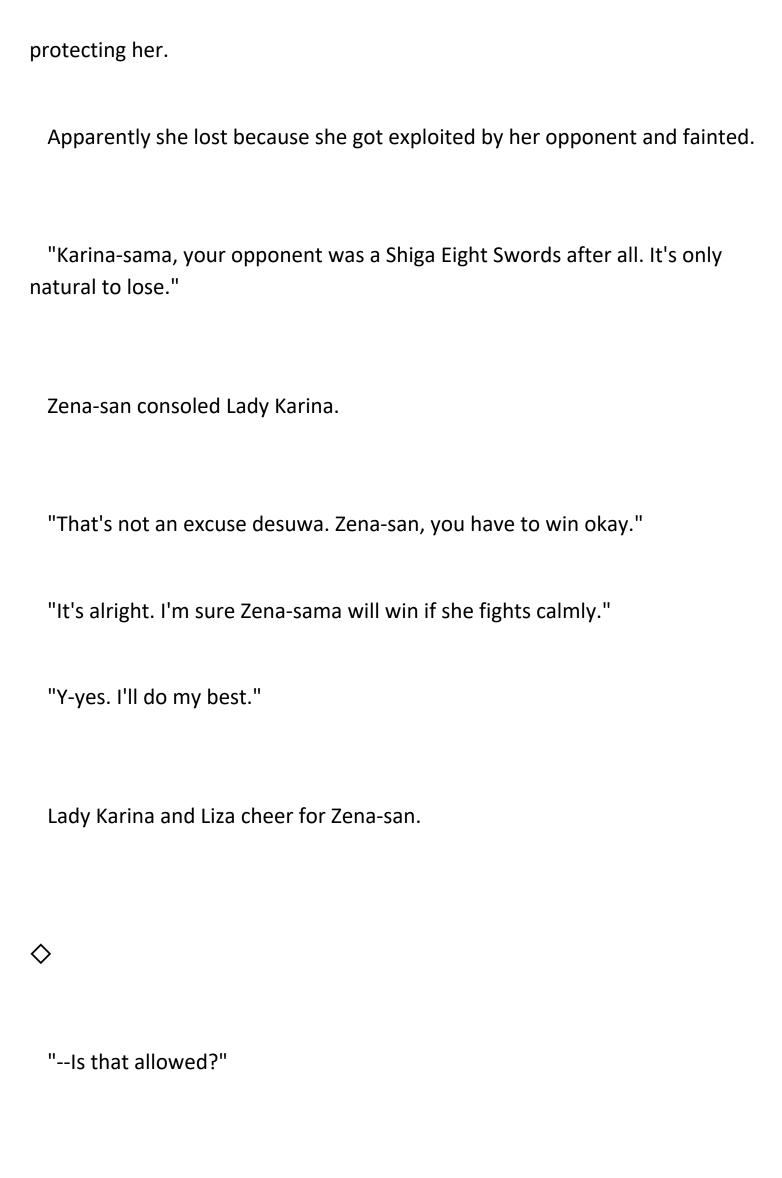
And it seems Reilas-dono is going to fight Zena-san afterward.

Liza declined to have a match because, "Master has not given me his permission."

Since the level difference is too great, it would have ended one-sidedly so her judgment is proper.



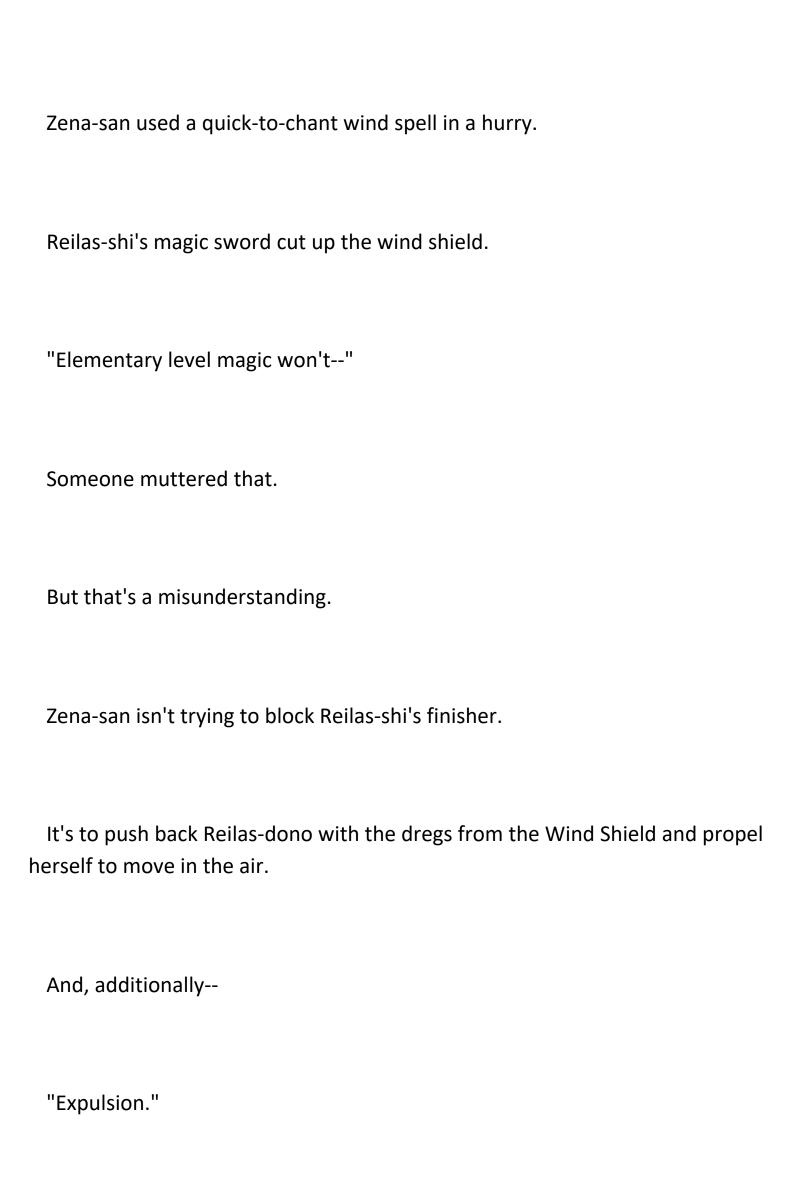
Oops, looks like Lady Karina had lost while we were talking. Both of them are the type that fight by instinct, but Miss Ryouna who's more experienced in interpersonal combat seems to have the upper hand in tactics. Lady Karina also often fought with Pochi and Tama, but since the practices were in assumption that she'd fight against monsters, she never had the chance of learning the in-depth of interpersonal combat. "Relief squad! My shoulders and ribs are broken! Help me with the healing." Miss Ryouna who was wounded all over called the knights specializing in healing. "I couldn't win." "Good work." I hand over a cold wet towel to the dejected Lady Karina. By the way, there's not even a scratch on Lady Karina who had Raka



"Yes, Master. When she was challenged, Zena-sama asked Reilas-dono if he didn't mind that she was maining magic, this is the answer to that." The scene before us is that of Zena-san flying in mid-air as she dropped [Air Hammers] down in a one-sided battle. At first, Reilas-shi counter attacked by shooting light magic, but since Zenasan completely blocked it with [<<Heavy Air Wall>>], he resorted to be in the defensive with his holy shield. Additionally, Zena-san who was able to quickly cast her magic interrupted Reilas-shi when he tried to cast mid-level magic that could break through her Heavy Air Wall. This match will have ended in an instant were Zena-san to use an advanced level wind magic, but it seems the kind Zena-san won't use it in fear of seriously injuring Reilas-shi. [--Her altitude is decreasing.] "It's true desuwa." Just as Raka said, Zena-san's altitude has decreased.



"■■■■ Wind Shield"



"NUOOOOOOO"

--The storm released from the wind that surrounded her body beat Reilas-shi down toward the ground.

Reilas-shi's magic sword cuts off the storm, but then come Zena-san's insurance blow.

".... Fallen Hammer"

Zena-san's heavy wind burst apart Reilas-dono who had been thrown off balance, he hit the ground without affording to break the fall.

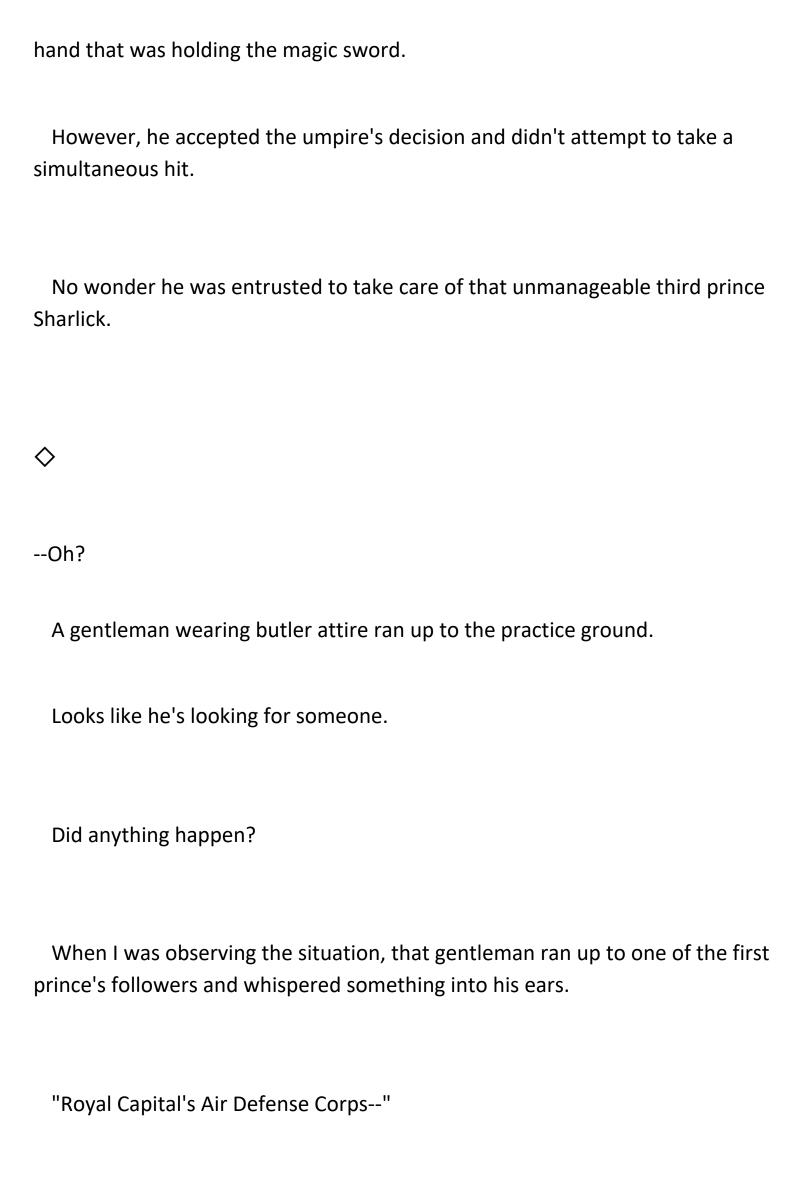
It wouldn't be strange for an ordinary person to die from it, but as expected of Shiga Eight Swords.

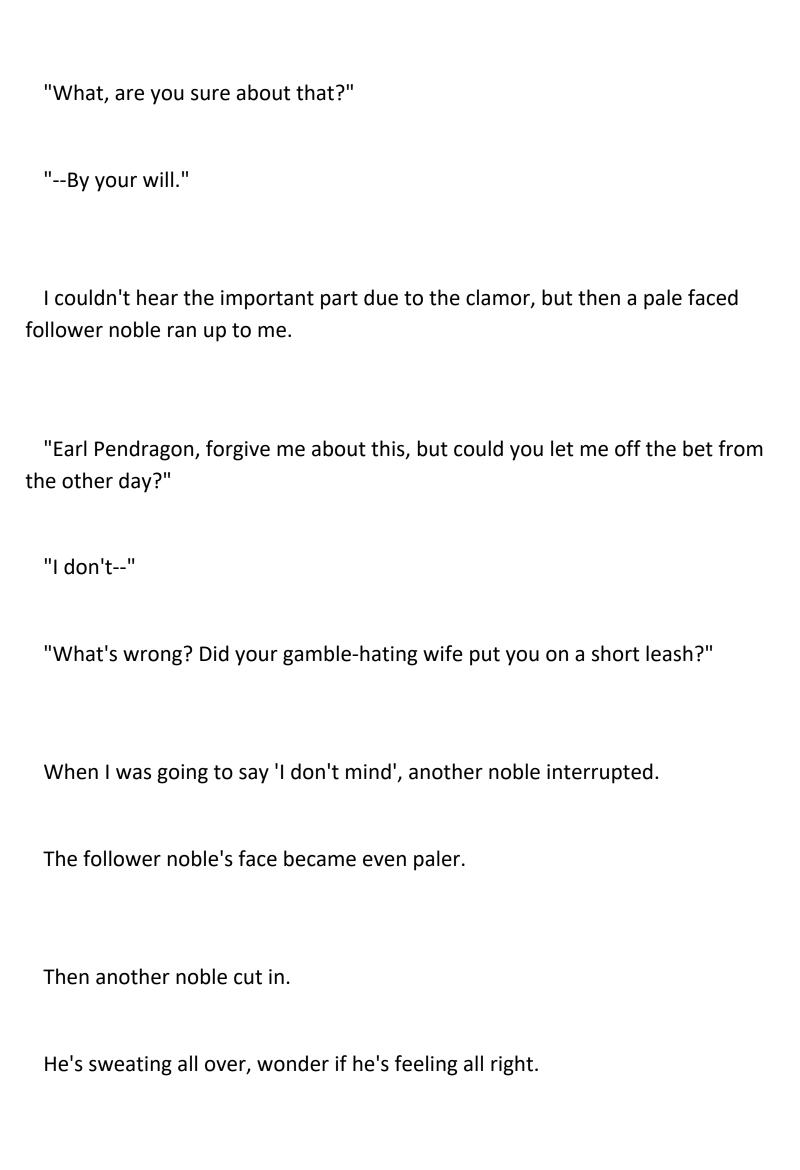
He swiftly springs up and jumps toward the holy shield nearby.

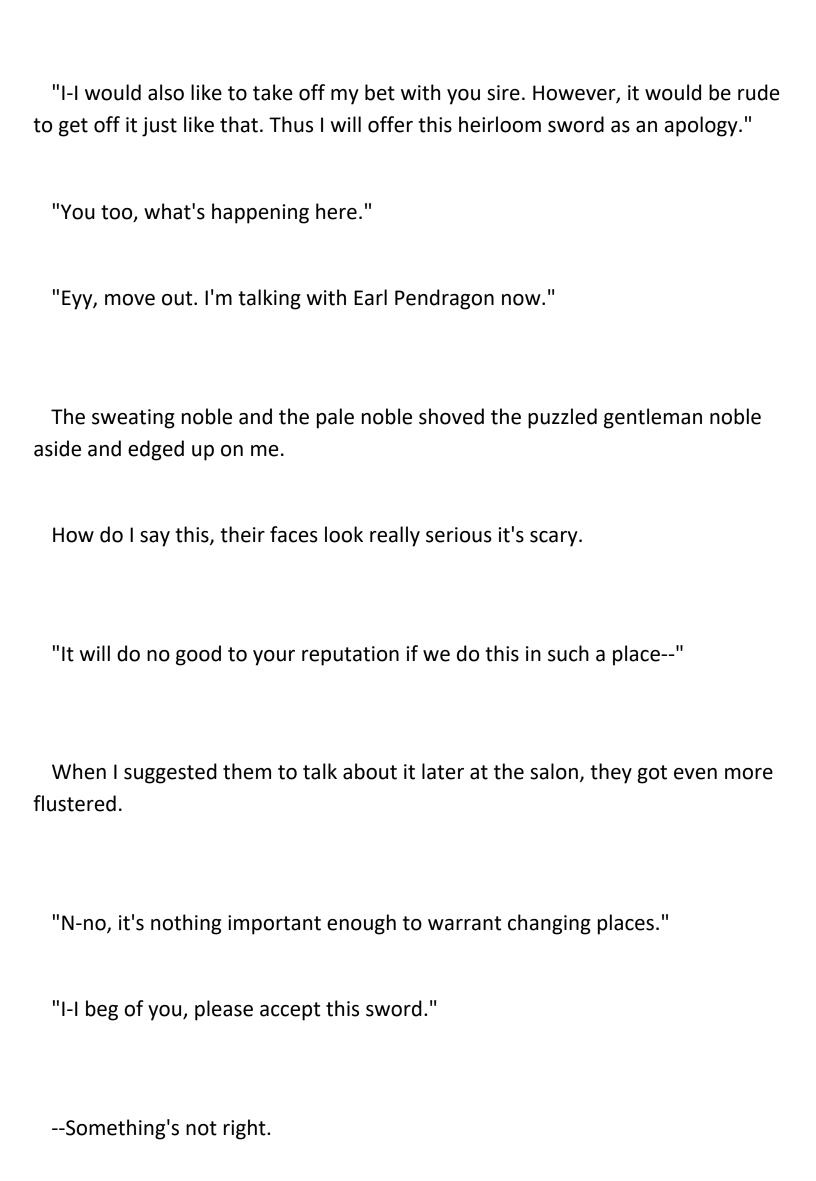
The moment his hand was about to reach the holy shield, his back was struck by Zena-san who had gained speed from gravity.

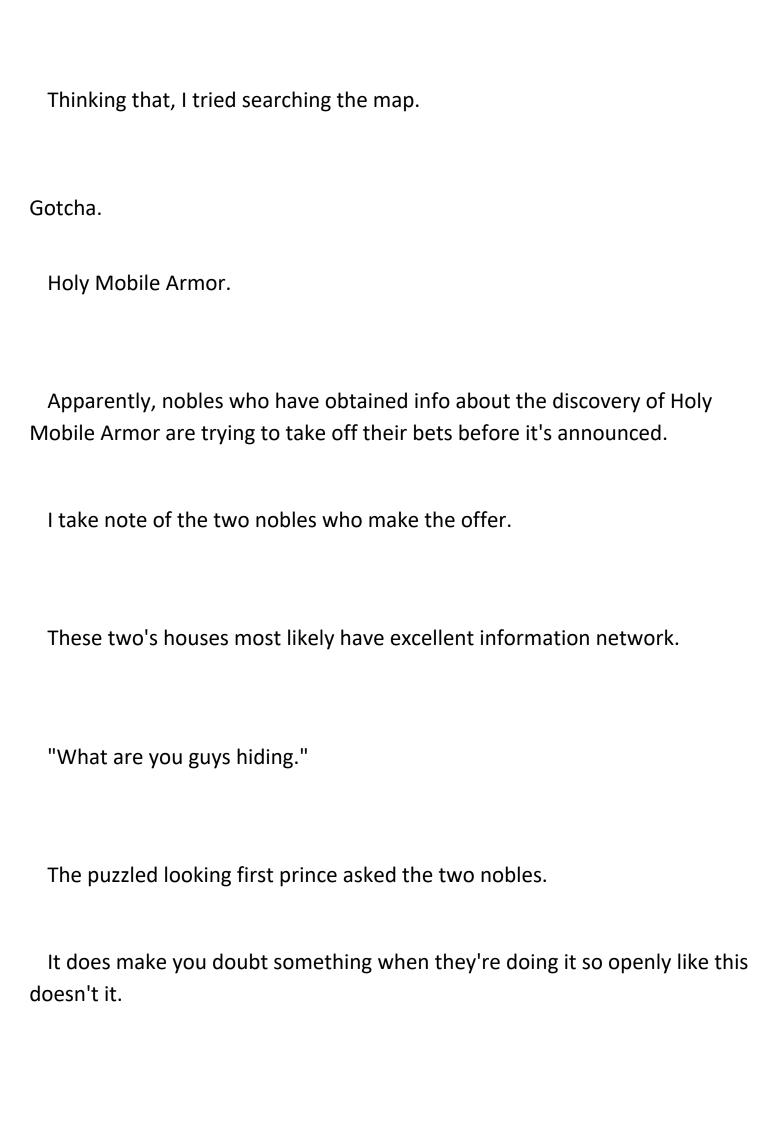
"Guha"
"■■■■ Air Hold!"
The Air Hold casted with shortened chant binds down Reilas-shi, his neck is then met with the short sword that Zena-san drew out.
"The winner! Zena Marientail!"
At the unexpected victory, the surrounding people let out an ear-splitting excited cheering.
"Splendidly done. Zena-dono."
"Thank you very much, Reilas-sama."
Zena-san replied Reilas-shi's praise while looking embarrassed and they exchanged handshakes in honor of the good fight.
The umpire didn't notice the fact that Reilas-shi's dominant had resisted Zena san's Air Hold right right before the conclusion, and if the umpire didn't make a

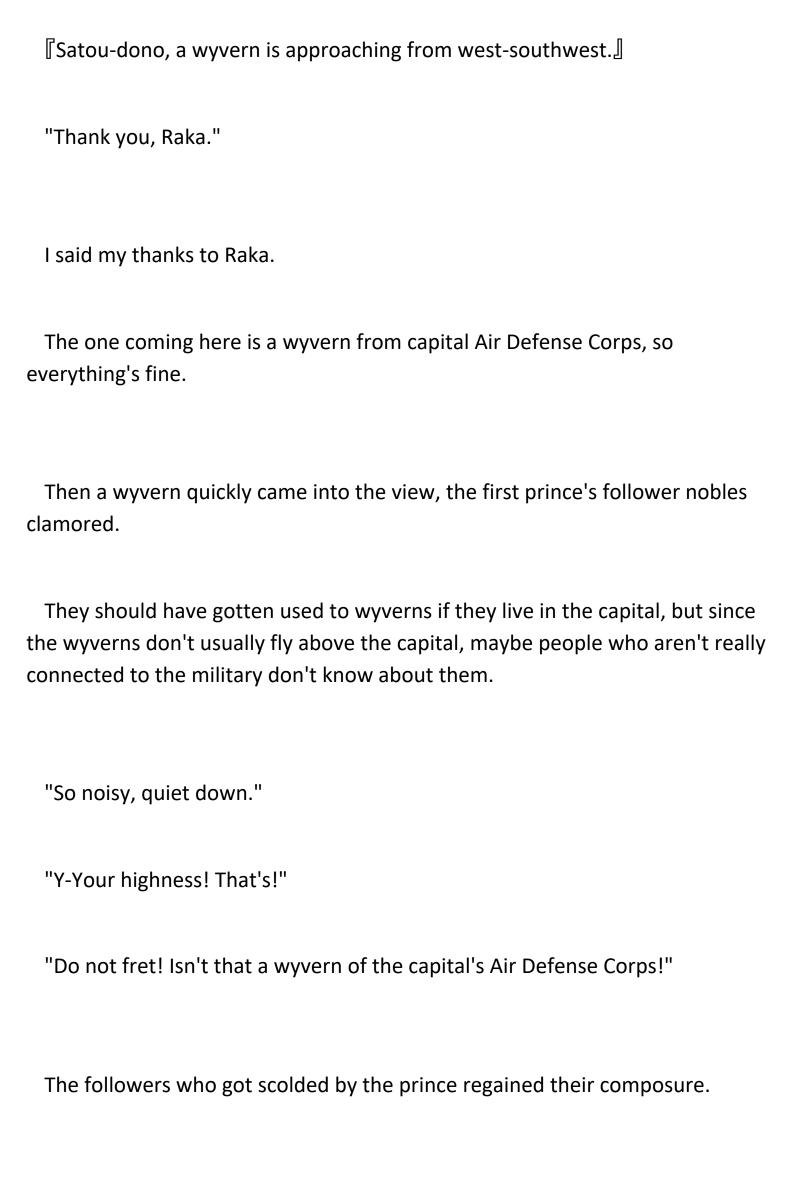
hasty conclusion, it was possible for him to counterattack Zena-san with the

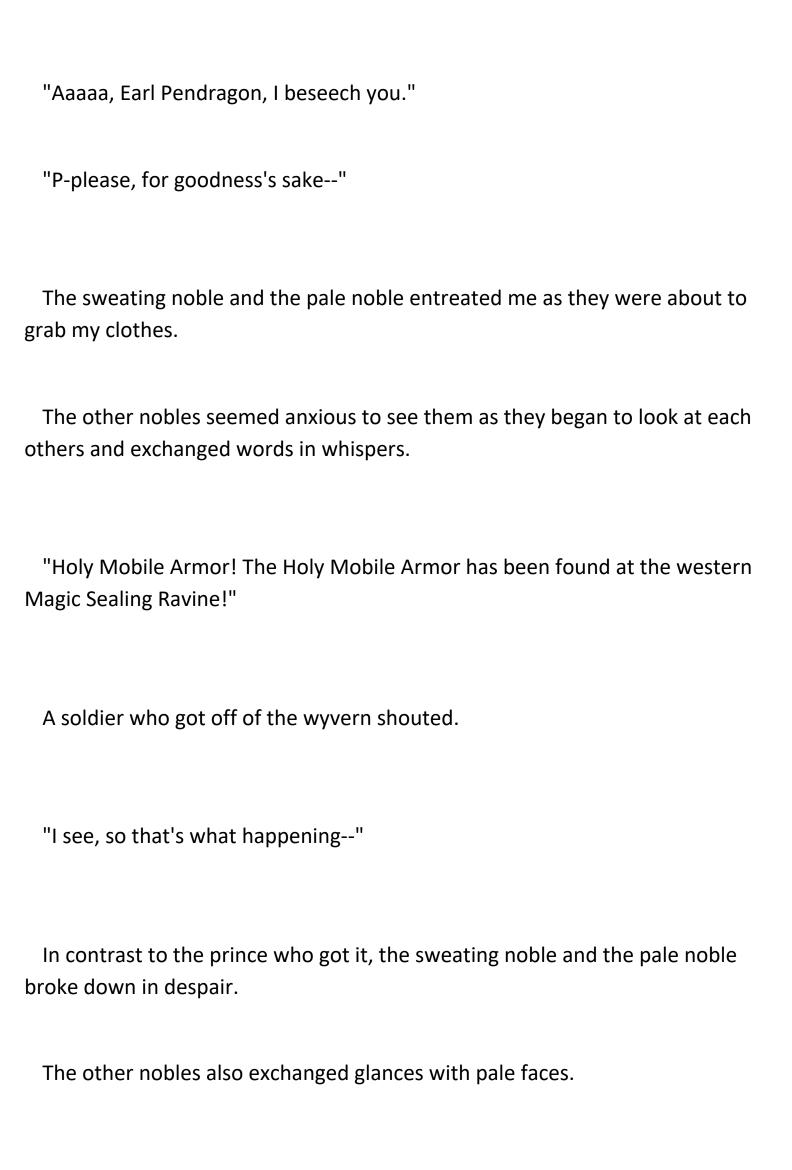












The nobles' line of sights are gathered to me as if they're begging me.
Not sure what you want me to do by doing that.
I personally find no value in the things they bet, but I can't exactly say, "the bet doesn't count" either.
If I did that, troublesome people would come one after another to make unreasonable bets with me.
Now then, the smart thing to do here is to look for a middle ground.
I sure would love to have Arisa's advice in times like this.

16-6. Holy Shell Mobile Armor (1)

Satou here. I kinda like special TV programmes that cover treasure hunts for Tokugawa's buried treasures. That the hunt would end up in failure was obvious since news about it didn't turn up on the headline, but even so, I still like to watch them.



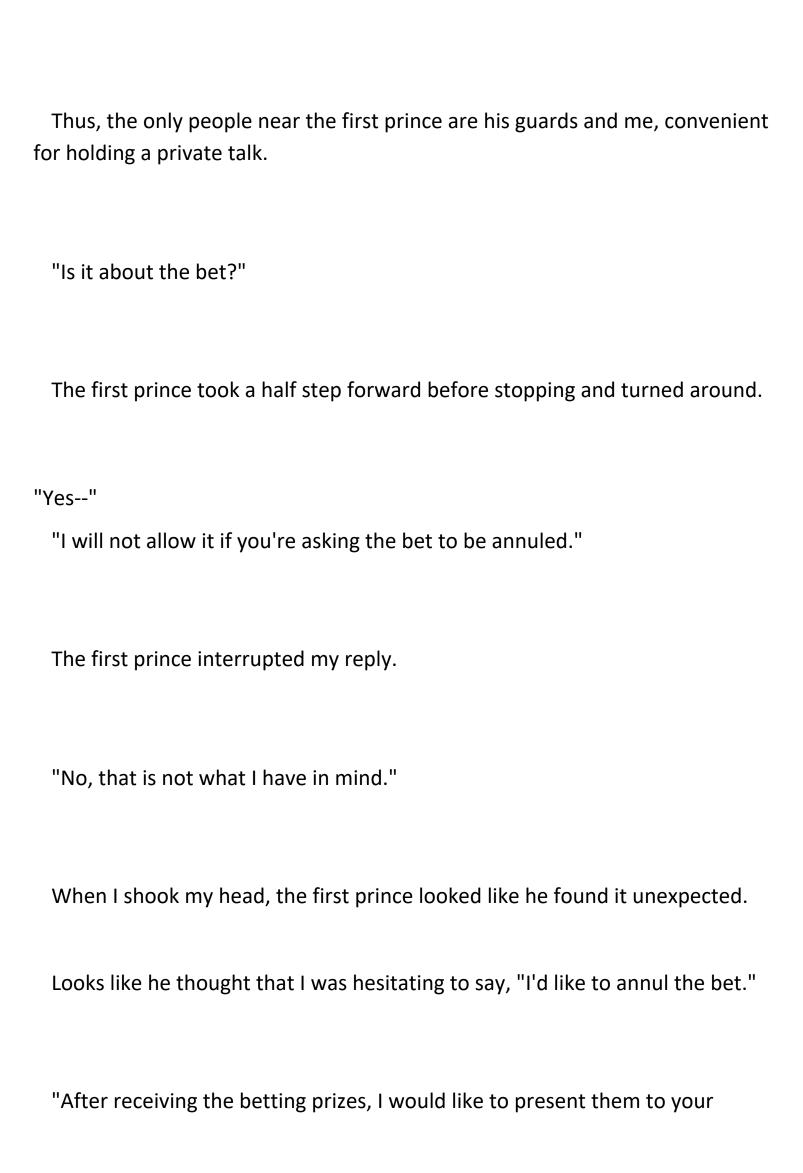
"Your Highness, could I have a moment of your time?"

On the way to the ceremony to celebrate the new airship's completion, I went to the first prince to consult about the bet.

I have worked out the content of the consultation together with Arisa and Hikaru through space magic [Telephone] on my way here.

Incidentally, the figures of nobles who lost their bet clinging on me incurred the wrath of the first prince and they were ordered to cool off their heads elsewhere.

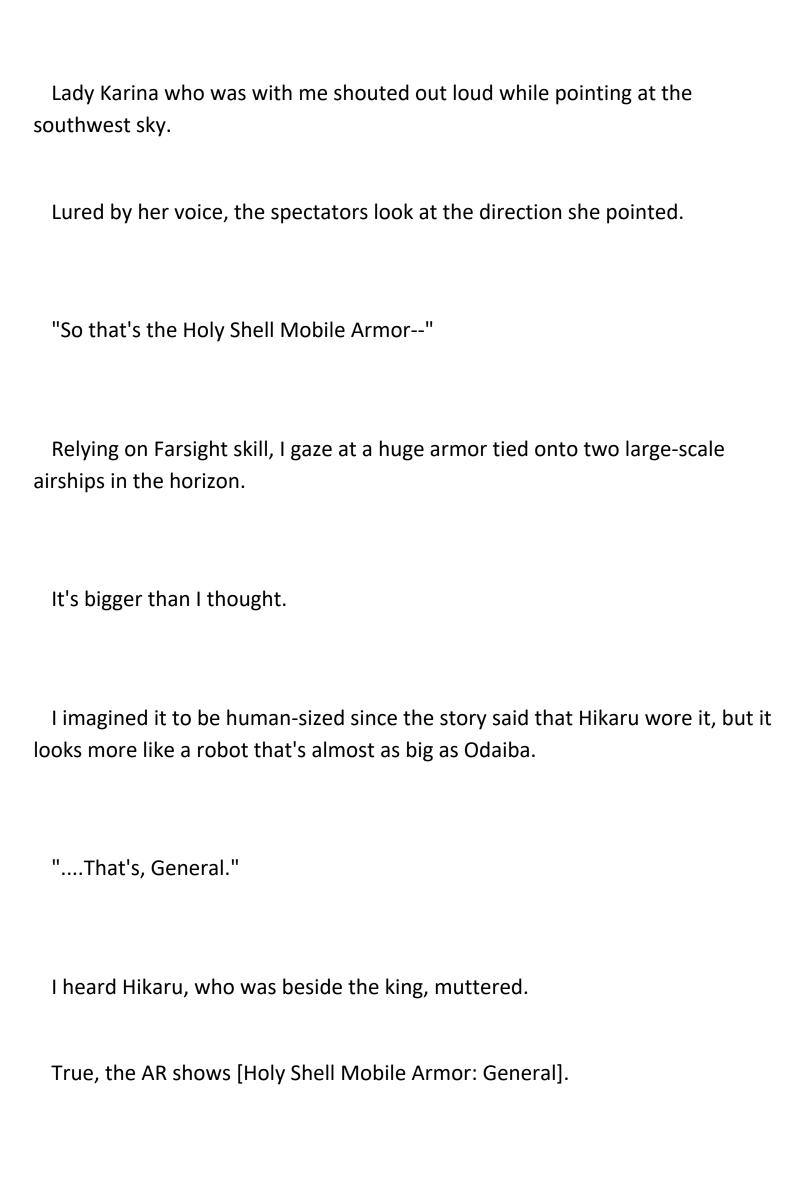
It seems they're currently having strategy meetings among their own small factions.



highness."
"Hmph, you're the only person who dares to force a chore on me without a hint of hesitation."
The first prince who saw through my real intention had a sarcastic smile on his face.
Looks like he had assessed that I was asking him, "Afterward, please grant them back to their original owners as a reward from your highness."
It'd be bad if we had a misunderstanding so I told him something to that effect, and the prince consented even while looking reluctant.
"If those prizes are to be granted as a reward, you're saying that they have to work hard to earn it, no?"
I assented to the prince's question.
It's a bit annoying, but it should be advantageous for the first prince too since he will be showing off his generosity while also working his followers hard.
"Good grief, Sir Pendragon, you should familiarize yourself more on the greediness of an average noble."

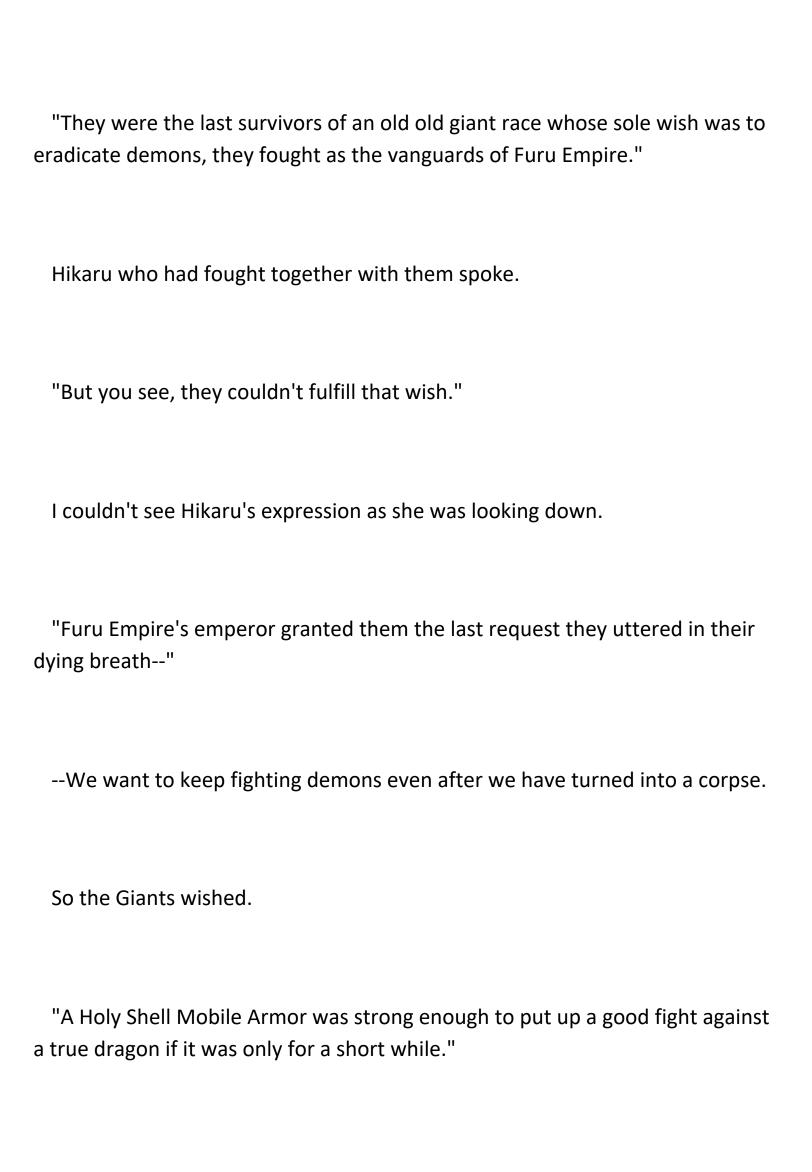


"These are all the ground support functions of airship Geldever." The Chief of Royal Airship Arsenal was having a fervent speech on the stage during the ceremony to celebrate the new airship. The new airship that was choke full of facilities to deal with monster stampedes was quite something, but the people seemed like they had their minds elsewhere, so the chief's explanation felt like it was being ignored. There's no mistaking that it's due to the rumor about Holy Shell Mobile Armor. Due to the poor reception of the audience, the chief gritted his teeth while looking like he wanted to, "Gununu." It might be also because test the fire of magic artillery installed around the royal capital got delayed to another day. I was also a bit disappointed since I had some interest in the [Magic Artillery] discovered in a ruin in a territory under direct control of the king. "I can see it!"



Is it just my imagination or Hikaru doesn't look happy somehow. Contrary to the king and the prime minister who are getting excited as they look up at the coming Holy Shell Mobile Armor. Hikaru left the two and walked outside the ceremony hall. "What's the matter, Hikaru." "Ah, Ichirou-nii." When I followed Hikaru and called out to her, she turned around with a face that was about to cry and smiled lonesomely. "That's, you know... it's a remain." Hikaru muttered weakly. Come to think of it, it's called [Holy Shell] Mobile Armor.

<TLN: 'Shell' can also be read 'corpse'.>



Hikaru narrated weakly.

Fragments of [Dragonflame Orb] they got from Dragon God in exchange of a vast amount of crimson treasures and other treasury, acted as the heart of Holy Shell Mobile Armor, demonstrating a far greater output than any conventional magic reactor.

If a Holy Shell Mobile Armor was to move at full power, the humans inside would die from the inertia so they would wear a three-meter tall mobile armor or a powered suit called invincible armor before getting in.

Additionally, that Dragonflame Orb was used at the final stage of the war between Furu Empire and Orc Empire, creating a vast desert to the west of Labyrinth City.

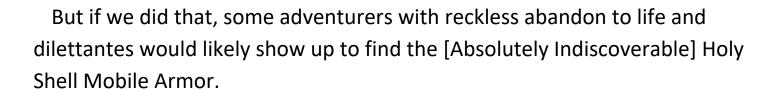
"And then I think it was after I befriended Ten-chan? I found these kids buried in a ruin of Furu Empire's arsenal."

According to Hikaru, there were four [Holy Shell Mobile Armors] and only [General] and [Dynast] remained at the end of the war.

The magic specialized type that Hikaru used, [Sage], got seriously damaged in the fight against the Wild Boar King.

The last one, [Saint], had its central part run amok right before the final battle

and was destroyed along with the orc army.
"I originally wanted to let them sleep in their graves once the war was over, but I was an awful king you see. I couldn't manage to revive the kingdom without the help of those kids."
I hold Hikaru in my chest as she forced a smile while shedding tears.
"And you see, Sharlick-kun promised me this when he became the king. He will keep the kingdom peaceful during his rule and let those kids sleep in a place no one can find he said."
"Then, now I will promise you this"
I pat the sobbing Hikaru's hair.
"I will let them sleep in a place that absolutely no one could find."
First of all, I will make a fake with the same capability as the Holy Shell Mobile Armor to the limit of Disguise skill.
Although, the king and the prime minister will definitely return the Holy Shell Mobile Armor back to its grave asap if only Hikaru tells them what she feels.

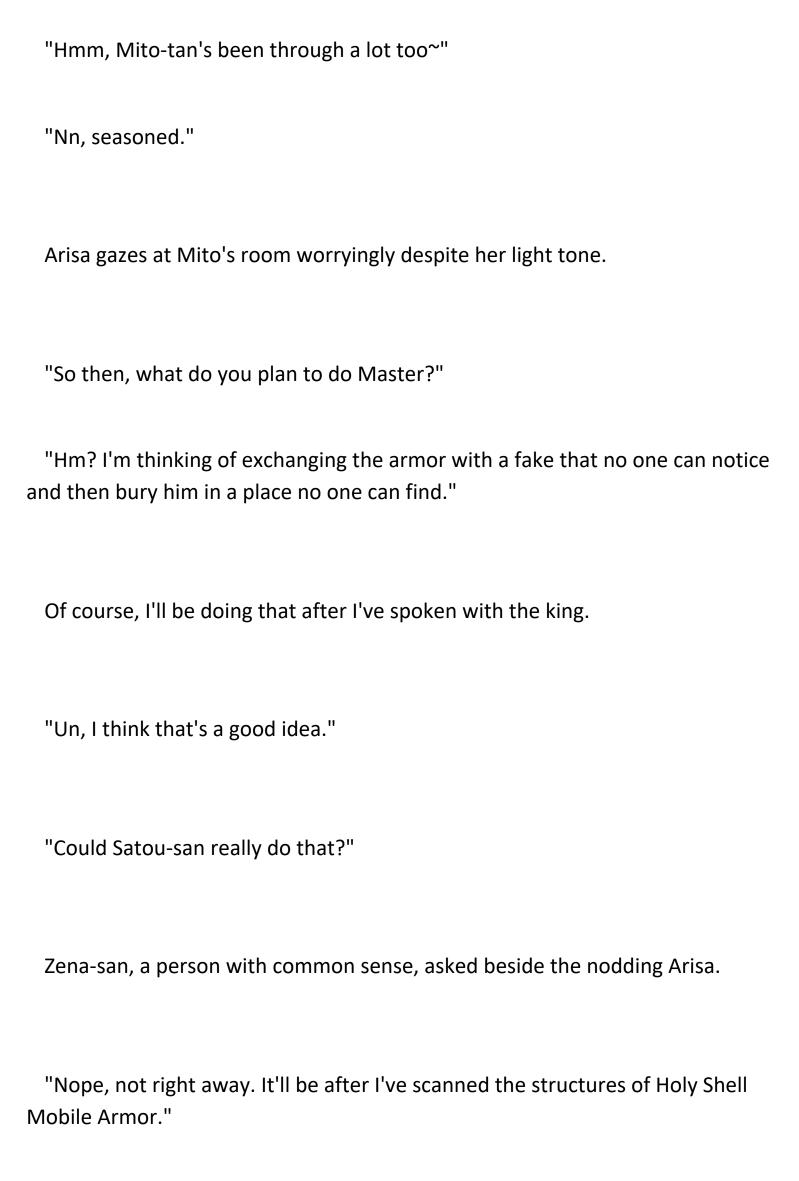


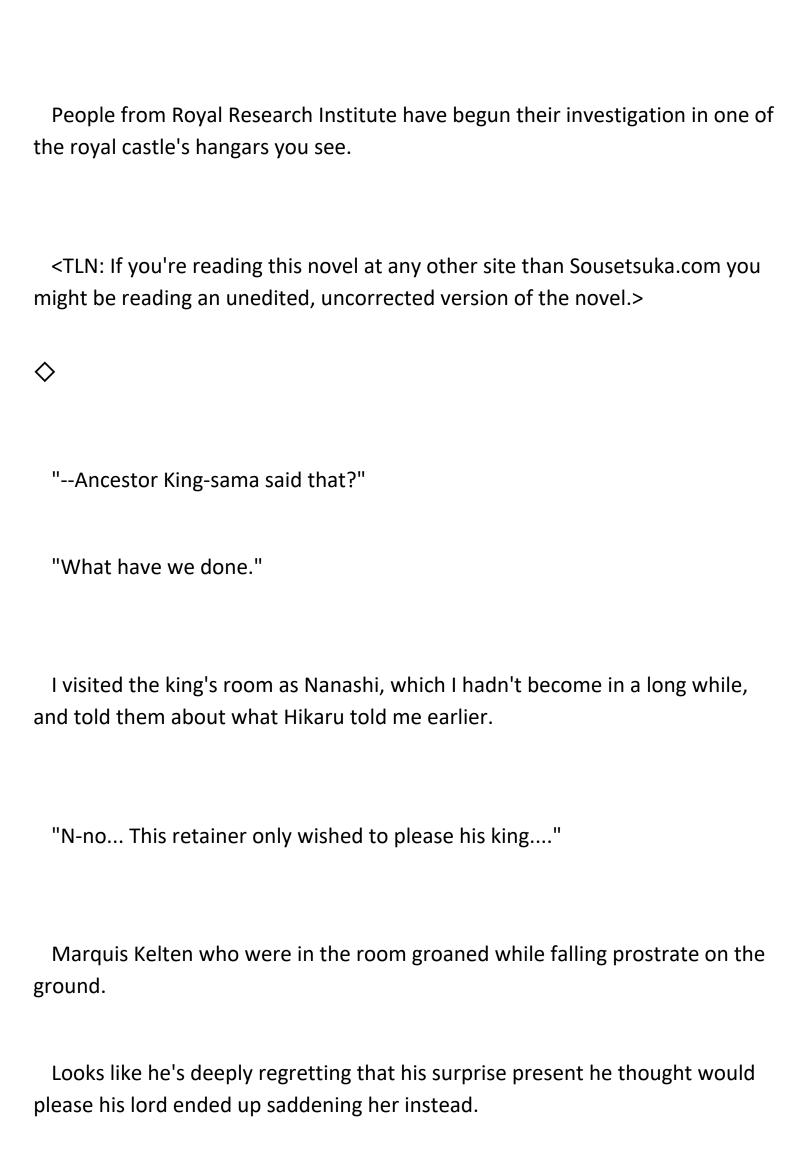


Arisa and Mia who had gone back from their special lecture greeted us when I returned to the Solitary Island Palace while lending my shoulder to Hikaru.

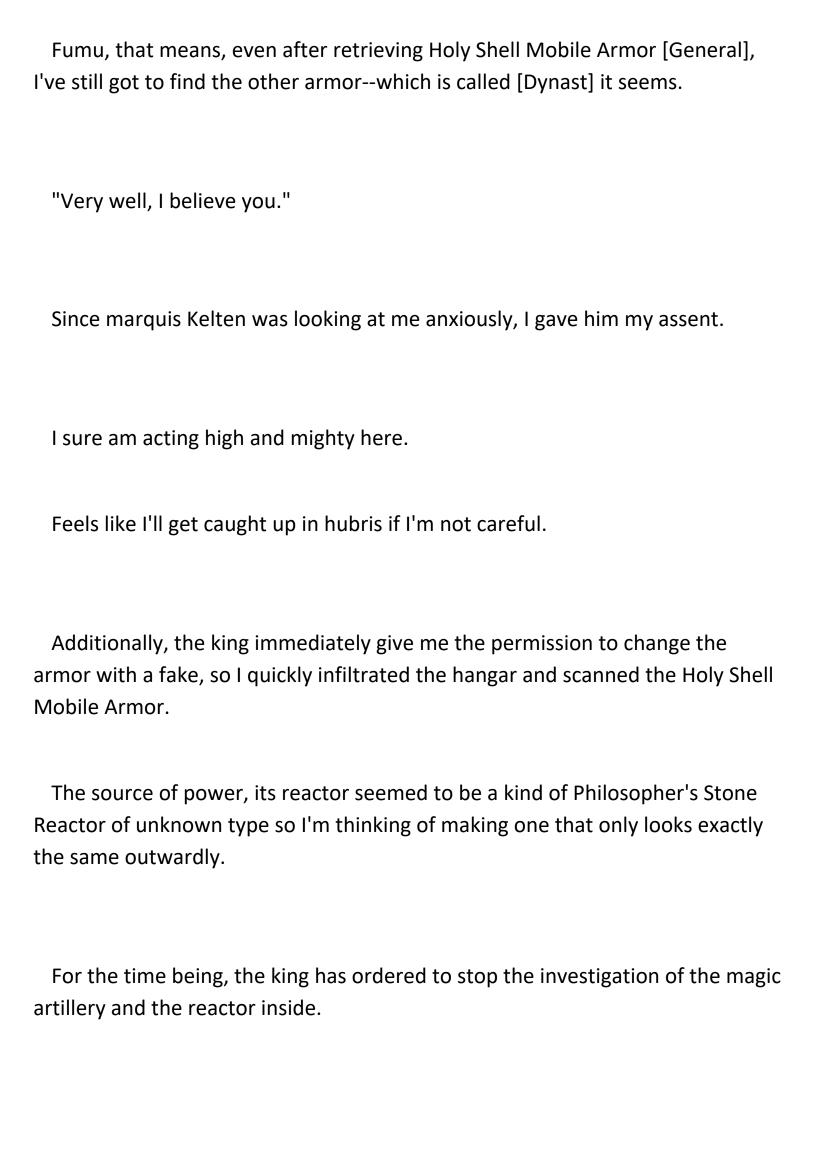
Apparently, princess Sistina who should have been with them is secluding herself in the forbidden library because the content of the lecture caught her interest.

I told what I heard earlier to Arisa and Mia after letting Mito sleep.





After all, they even got the mobile armor worn in order to pilot the Holy Shel Mobile Armor mixed up with the real thing. "I will exchange it with a fake later. Tell me about the place you found it. There should be another Holy Armor sleeping there according to Mito." "No, Nanashi-sama. The only Holy Shell Mobile Armor we found in the ruin was the one we brought here." Marquis Kelten answered my question. "Do you swear?" "Yes I swear on ancestor king-sama, the royalty, and the honor of Kelten	
"I will exchange it with a fake later. Tell me about the place you found it. There should be another Holy Armor sleeping there according to Mito." "No, Nanashi-sama. The only Holy Shell Mobile Armor we found in the ruin was the one we brought here." Marquis Kelten answered my question. "Do you swear?" "Yes I swear on ancestor king-sama, the royalty, and the honor of Kelten	"It cannot be helped. The circumstances surrounding that weren't handed down were they?"
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	"Do you swear?"
	"Yes I swear on ancestor king-sama, the royalty, and the honor of Kelten Marquisdom."
Marquis Kelten promptly replied to my question.	Marquis Kelten promptly replied to my question.



♦
"On top of having a large scale Mana Reactor inside, it's also able to manufacture and command 100 giant golems all at once huh"
I was astonished at the results of the scan.
It far outclassed magic weaponry in present days.

Ancient Furu Empire sure had some amazing technology up their sleeves.

"I've looked up the documents pertaining magic artillery you asked."

She brought three documents from the forbidden library in the royal castle.

Princess Sistina knocked and entered the room.

"Satou."

"Thank you very much."

Unfortunately they weren't about the technical sides of magic artillery, b	ut
more about their destructive power and history.	

"It seems Furu Empire repaired artillery they excavated in a ruin of Lalakie civilization and made use of them."

Princess Sistina told me as she turned the pages.

Lalakie huh.... It crossed 20,000 years of time and was revived during the Divine Punishment, but it has sunk back into the depth of oceans now.

The half-ghost and homonculus sisters-in-law I saved back then should be acting as gravekeepers if I'm not mistaken.

After looking around the map for a bit, I found out that wreckages of magic artillery are sleeping not only in Lalakie, but also in the oceanic state of magic kingdom Lalagi that's related to Lalakie, in the territorial waters of Ishlalie, and even in the Sea Dragon Archipelago at the coastal waters of Boruenan.

Few survived getting submerged in the sea for 20,000 years, only an ancient ship made of adamantite sunk in the Sea Dragon Archipelago remained.

"Sa-Satou, that's?"

When I used space magic [Item Pull (Aport)] to take a magic artillery from the ancient ship here, princess Sistina was shocked for some reason.
She probably wants to know what I fetched since I relatively often took things out of Storage in front of her.
"It's a small magic cannon installed in a sunken ship from the era of Lalakie Dynasty."
Many types were present, but the ones installed in the Holy Shell Mobile Armor were of this type, so I chose this one.
"I'll be heading off to the studio."
"Yes, take care."
I parted ways with princess Sistina who sounded tired somehow and went to make a fake Holy Shell Mobile Armor.
It should be done by tomorrow morning if I just work hard here.

16-7. Holy Shell Mobile Armor (2)

Satou here. There are times when a friend I know well surprised me with unexpected knowledge while we were talking about some geeky things. Obviously, someone's life is always going even while you're not aware of it isn't it.

 \Diamond

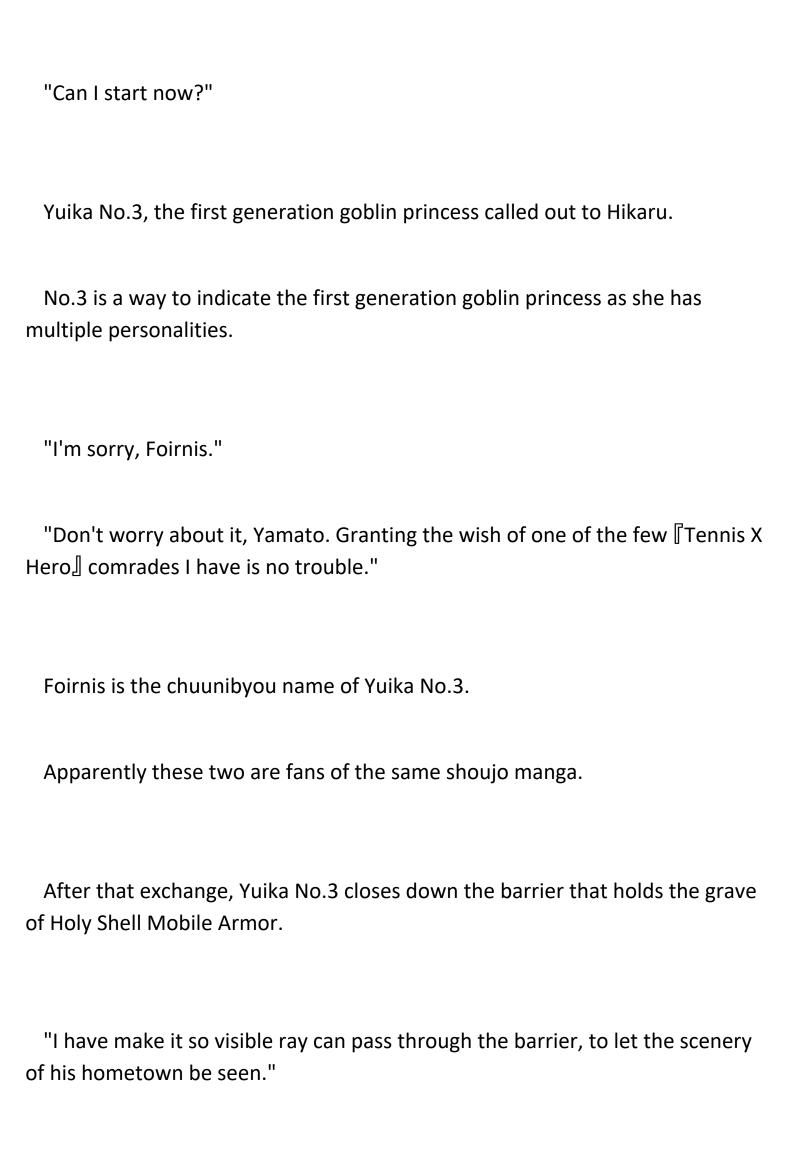
"--Goodbye, General."

Hikaru reluctantly parted with a huge gravestone.

I went with Hikaru to the hometown of Giants along with Holy Shell Mobile Armor remains.

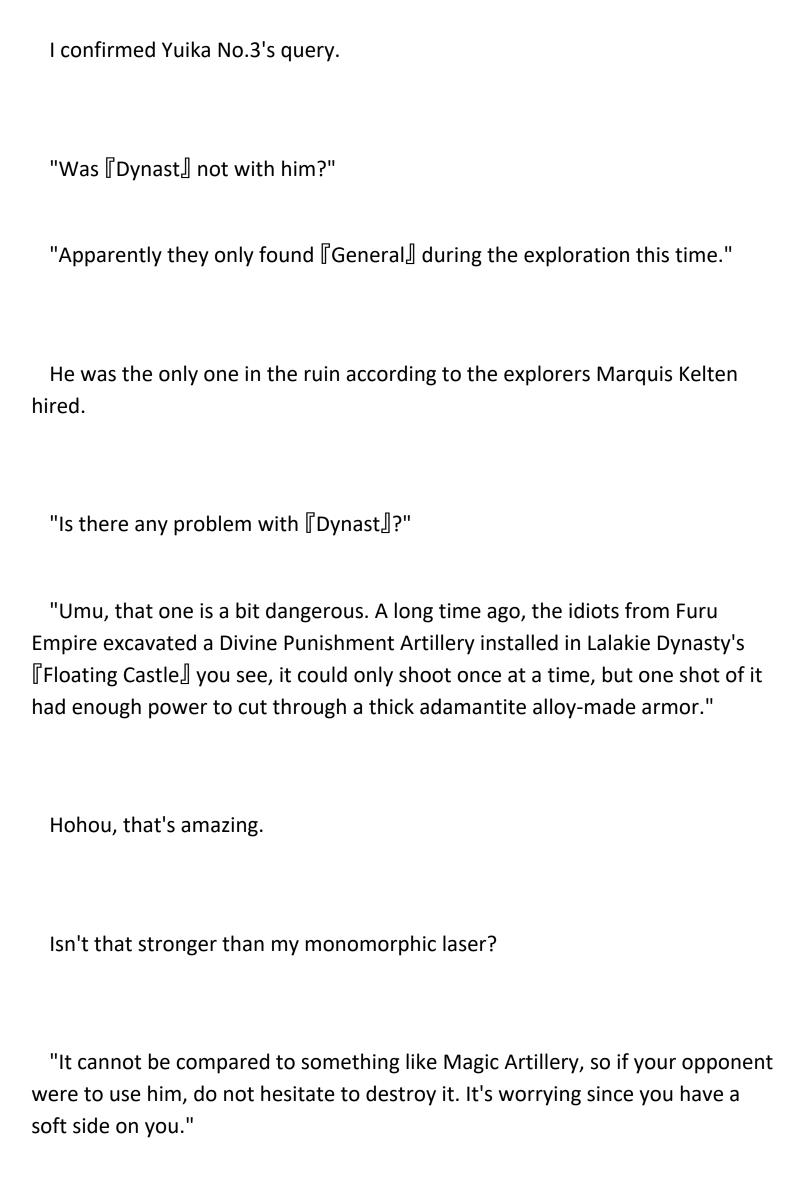
For the sake of burying the Holy Shell Mobile Armor I had exchanged with a fake this morning.

I have put up a barrier here with my magic, but someone might discover the grave someday with just that alone, thus, I have enlisted the help of an expert.

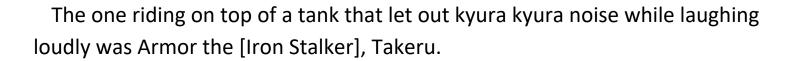


Yuika No.3 said that and demonstrated how the tombstone before us couldn't be touched.
"You can freely visit the grave, however, the Dragonflame Orb used as his core is something that the Seven Gods desire, it is dangerous. It isn't something you should go around telling people about."
Dragonflame Orb was an artifact that created the great desert to the west of labyrinth city wasn't it.
I don't think there's anyone who can break through a barrier that Yuika created with her Unique Skill, but it might catch the interest of the gods or someone whose Unique Skill could tear through barriers, it's probably safer to keep this from everyone.
"Un, I'll keep it a secret from everyone."
"Yes, you should do that."
Yuika No.3 nodded at Hikaru.
"Satou, could you make flowers bloom around this place?"

"Sure thing."
I answered Hikaru's request and made multi-colored flowers bloom in the wasteland-like graveyard.
We left the place after watching the scenery with Hikaru for a while.
I sent Hikaru back to the solitary island palace and Yuika to her retreat in Selbira labyrinth's lower layer.
As thanks for her trouble this time, in addition to the usual surface dishes, I also gave her a magic tool to convert mana into 100-volt AC power along with home appliances, and also cup ramens and bags of sweets I got from a parallel world earth.
After being frolic at those nostalgic items for a while, Yuika No.3 speaks to me in a serious tone.
"Satou, the one earlier was [General] wasn't it?"
"Yes, Yamato said so."



"Thank you Yuika." I easily can defend myself if it's only against a converged laser shot, but since Yuika No.3 gave the advice out of worry about my wellbeing, I gave her my thanks. "Hmph, it's because the current Yuika would be sad if you were to hurt badly." Yuika No.3 averted her gaze with blushed cheeks as she said that. I smiled back at Yuika No.3 when she bashfully told me, "If you've got no more business here, go home", and left her retreat to visit my acquaintances in the labyrinth's lower layer for the first time in a while. <TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you</p> might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.> "GAHAHAHA! Run run! I'll run ya over if ya stop!"



He's a former reincarnated person, and an undead now.

"Keep at it~ Multi-legged Mushroom, Mash-san is waiting for you once you're done with Armor's tank~"

Cheering from the center of a huge open space is a blue-skinned greater vampire--Semeri the vampire princess.

"Kuh, dammit, I'll definitely make you cry someday!"

At the end of her line of sight, is the former artificial demon lord, native hero Shin boy who's getting chased by Armor's tank while cursing.

He was summoned as a commoner into this world in a hero summoning experiment at Rumooku Kingdom incited by Weasel Empire's engineers.

And then, he was given a Unique Skill through an artifact called Demon Lord Orb by his father who got reincarnated into this world by chance, became an artificial demon lord and almost destroyed Shiga Kingdom's capital, but it was all in the past.

He's finished his rehabilitation now	and is steadily raising his level with A	4rmor
and vampire princess Semeri's help.		

Although it's partly because of Hero title, these two teachers are really merciless.

Feels like I often see Shin in precarious situations, perhaps it's cause they think they could just revive him as a vampire even if he died.

"Kuro!"

As I was approaching while thinking that, Semeri who noticed me waved her hands buzzingly.

"What's up Kuro. Did something happen?"

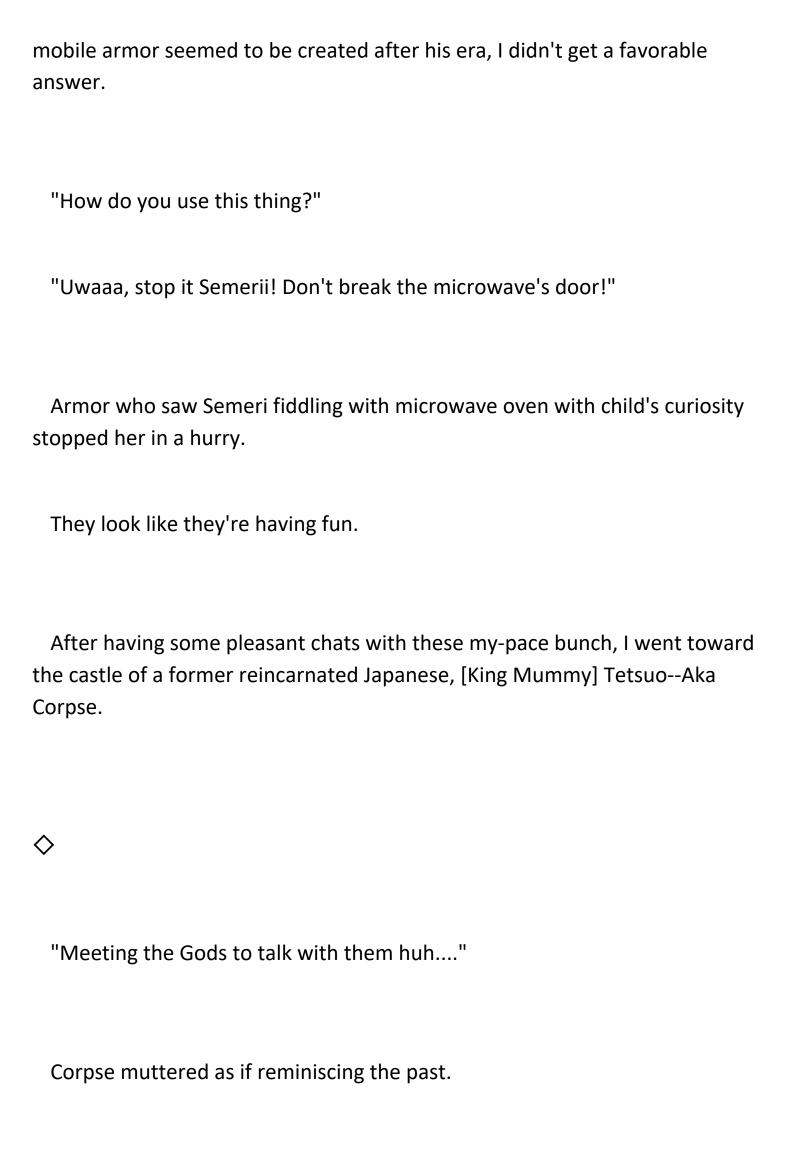
"Naw, I had some business with Yuika so I thought I'd stop by to see how Shin is doing."

Shin boy is breathing roughly on the ground, unable to hold a conversation.

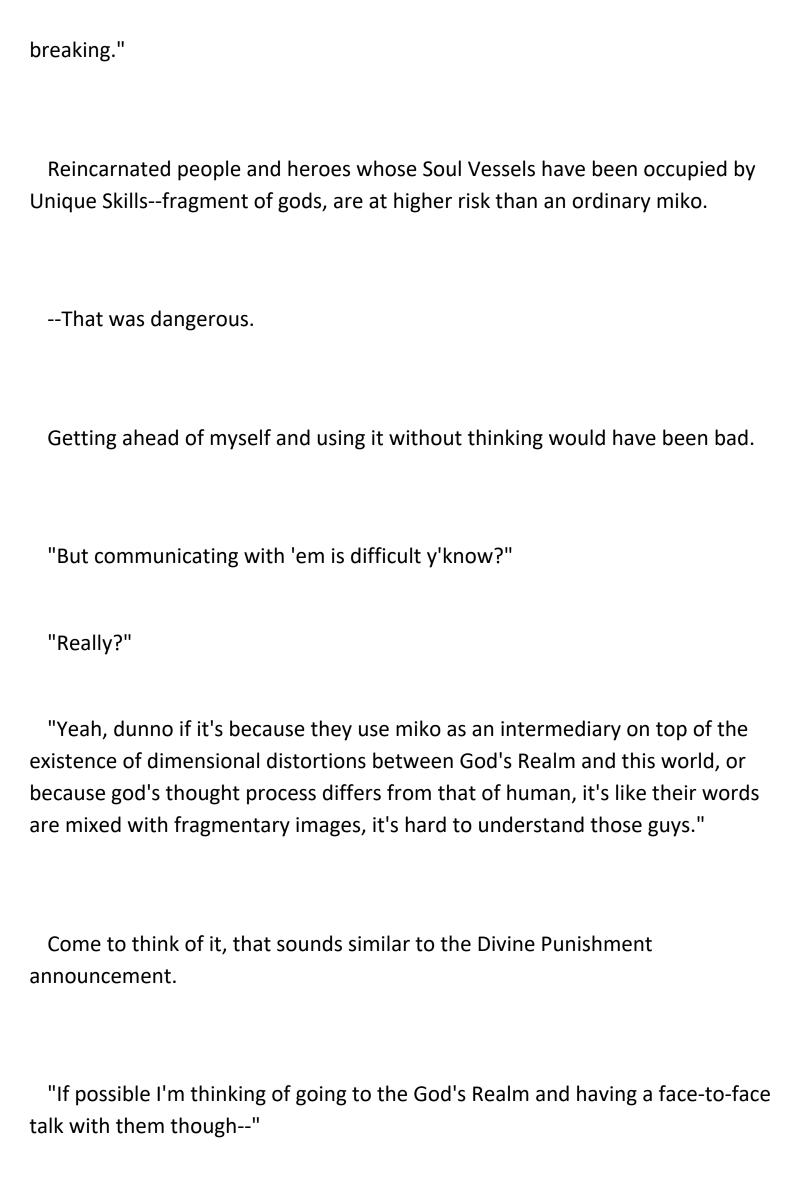
I took out the same home appliances and food I gave Yuika inside Armor's residence.

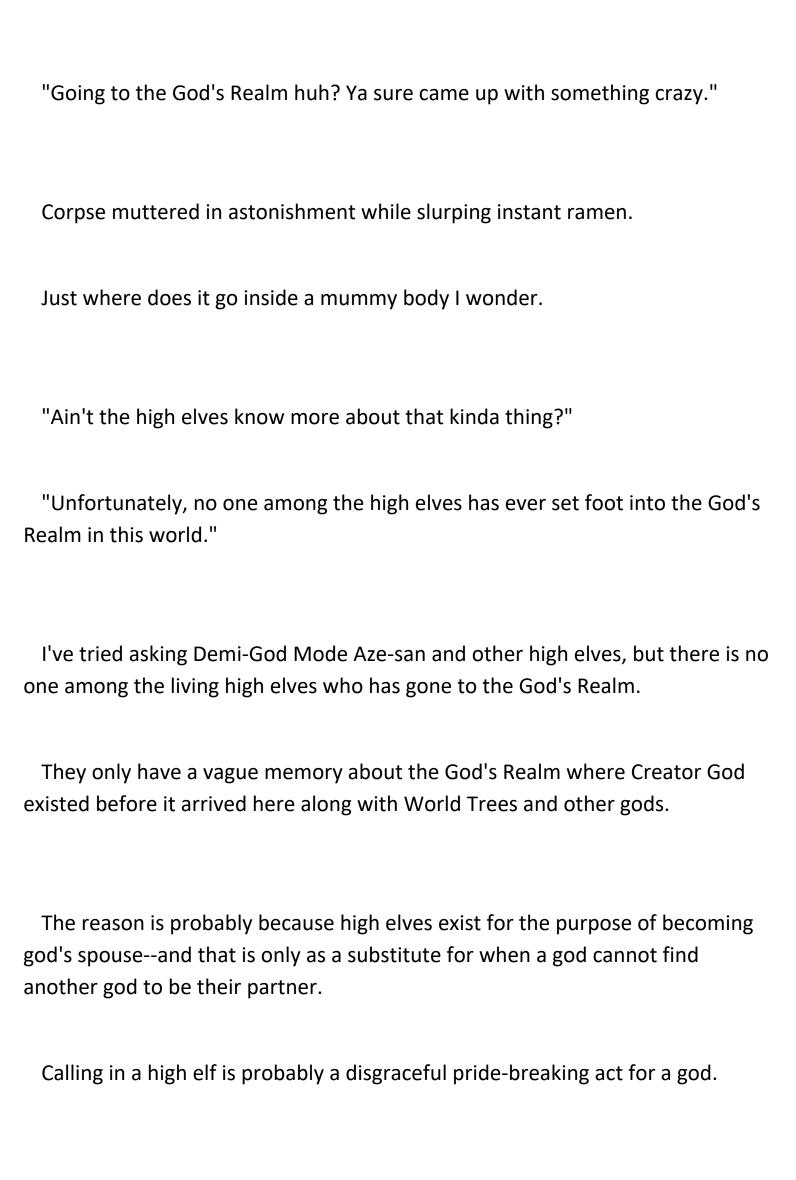
"Don't tell me, you managed to teleport between worlds?" "Yeah, it needs a stupidly huge amount of mana equaling hero summoning so I can't use it thoughtlessly though." I told the truth to Armor. "Shin, do you want to go back to your former world?" "nfo (no), nfo inferesfed (not interested)." Shin boy waved his head aside while gulping down instant yakisoba Piyoung. Come to think of it, Aoi and Yui at Echigoya Firm also didn't wish to return, are these young ones just not interested in a peaceful earth? "Oh right, Armor. Do you know about Holy Shell Mobile Armor?" "Huhn? I dunno no armor with exaggerated names like that--or maybe ya mean a kind of Power Suit Golem Armor I made?"

I asked Armor about Dynast since he was an engineer of Furu Empire, but the



"Yes, I'd like to understand what the gods want, so a tragedy like Weasel Empire won't repeat ever again."
He once threatened the gods with nuclear weapons, so I came here to ask for his opinion.
"It'll be faster if you let them advent with [Invoke Deity] if you're willing to break a miko"
"I will not do that."
I'm not gonna expose Sera and Lily to danger to do that.
Apparently I can use it myself if I level Holy Magic skill up to 10 anyway.
"Don't even think about using it yourself you hear me?"
As if reading my thought, Corpse warned me.
"It goes without saying that you risk getting your body taken over by the god that descended, but more than that, there's a high chance of your Soul Vessel







not.

Afterward, vampire's progenitor Ban and my acquaintances in the labyrinth's lower layer gathered here while I was talking about Lalakie dynasty with Corpse, so we ended up having a banquet.

The cabbage rolls shimmered in tomato soup made from tomatoes that Yuika successfully cultivated were quite delicious, so I'm gonna treat the girls in the solitary island palace with the same dish once I get back.

Now then, it's about time to go to Tenion Temple in the duchy capital and acquire the mean to communicate with the gods.

16-8. Ringrande's Homecoming

Satou here. I always came back to my parents' home for obon and new year's day in my college days, but that got less and less often the moment I became a working adult.

It's not because I didn't like getting pestered about when is the wedding or getting offered to go to a marriage interview by obliging relatives. I'm telling the truth you know?



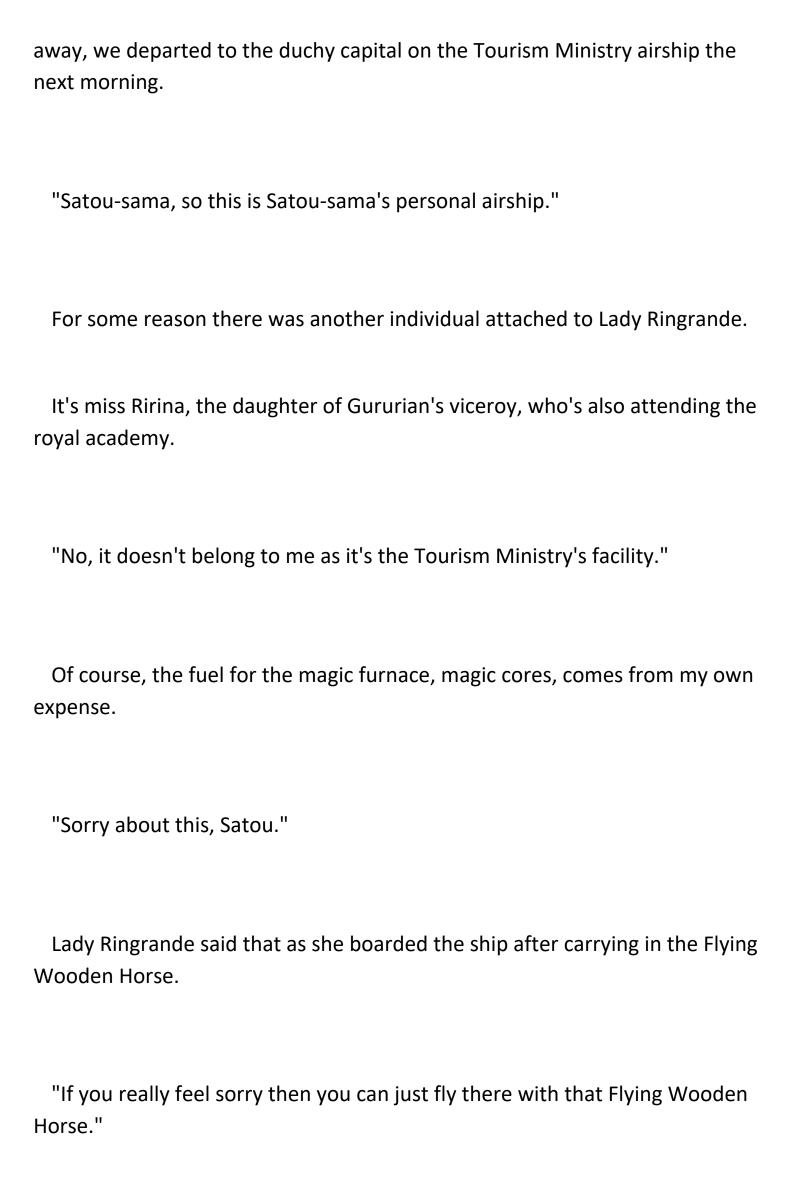
"Satou, sorry but could you please escort me back to Duchy Capital?"

"Yes, I wouldn't mind."

When I was on my way back from the castle after seeing the fake Holy Shell Mobile Armor, Lady Ringrande whom I came across in a hallway asked me that.

I was just thinking of going back to the duchy capital, so it's just right.

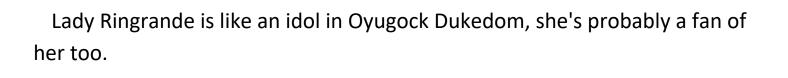
I had promised to attend to a tea party and a banquet so we couldn't go right



The one who reproached Lady Ringrande with thorny words was her little sister of the same mother, Sera.
She's the the only one among Solitary Island Palace members who's going along with me this time as the other girls seem to have business in the royal capital here.
Additionally, Lady Karina is going to act as a guide in lady Soruna's capital tour.
"Ehehe, Satou-sama."
Miss Ririna went and clung on me when the airship shifted into level flight.
Looks like she's gotten attached to me.
"Ririna-san, hugging a gentleman's arm who is not your fiance is shameless for a lady."







And then--.

The small airship equipped with the latest cruising engine devised by Prof. Jahad only took half the time needed for a conventional airship to reach the duchy capital.

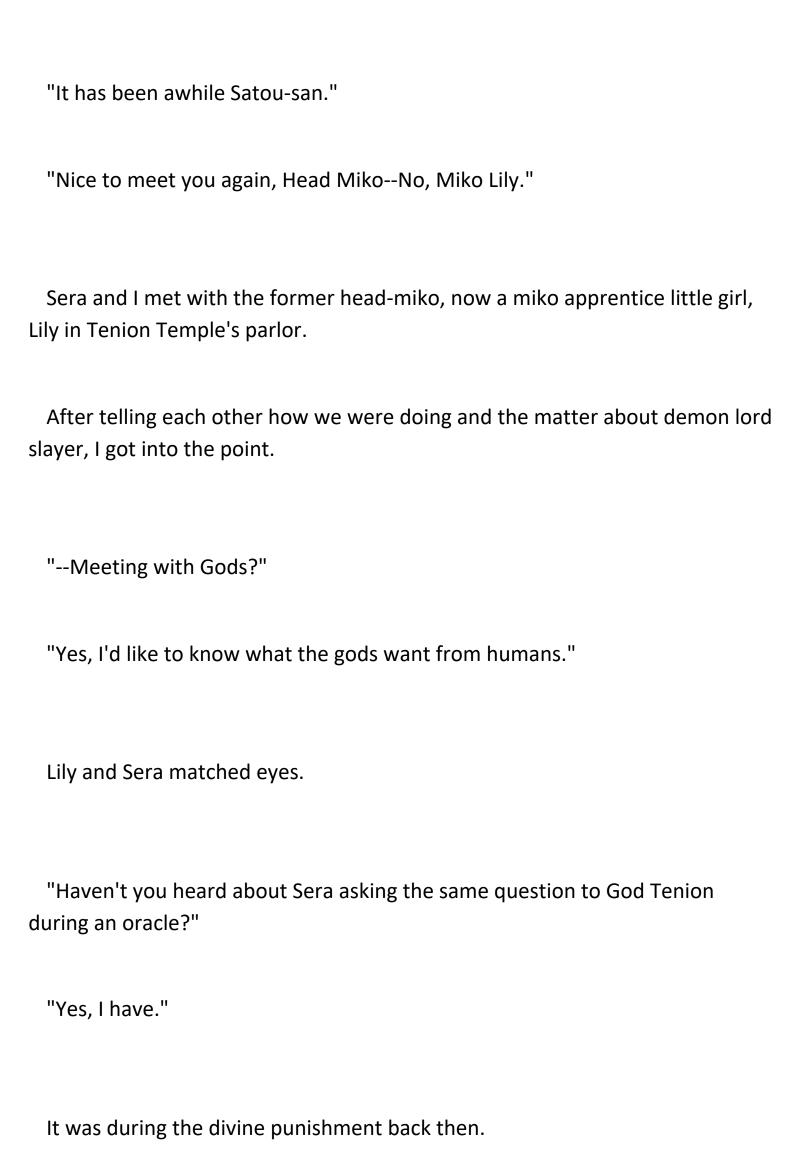
I ended up having to watch endless quarrels or rather, teasing, between sisters, in the whole duration of the flight though, it was a bit troublesome.

That ascetic journey finally came to an end and the airship arrived at the duchy capital to meet a grand reception sponsored by Sera's and Lady Ringrande's father, who is also the next duke.

The personnels were a bit lacking since the duke and the two glutton nobles weren't present, but I got to meet Earl Wolgock who took care of us when we first arrived at the duchy capital back then for the first time in a long while.



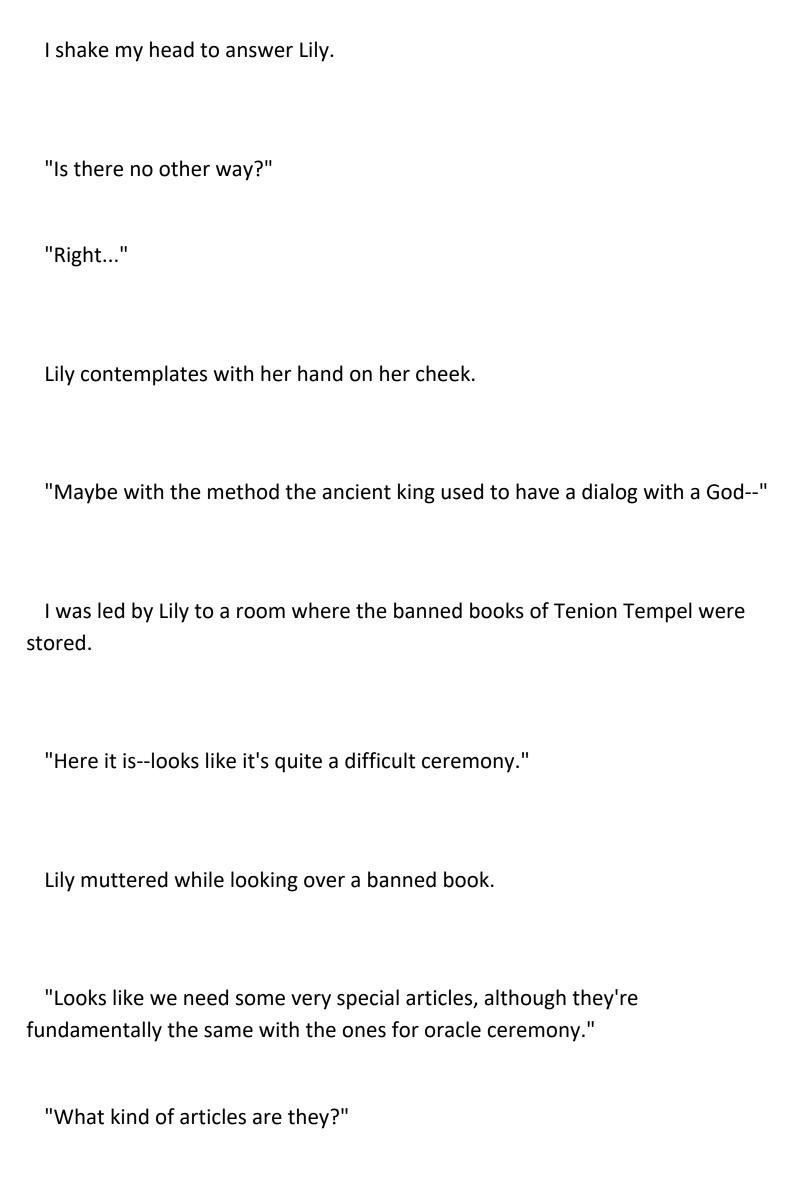
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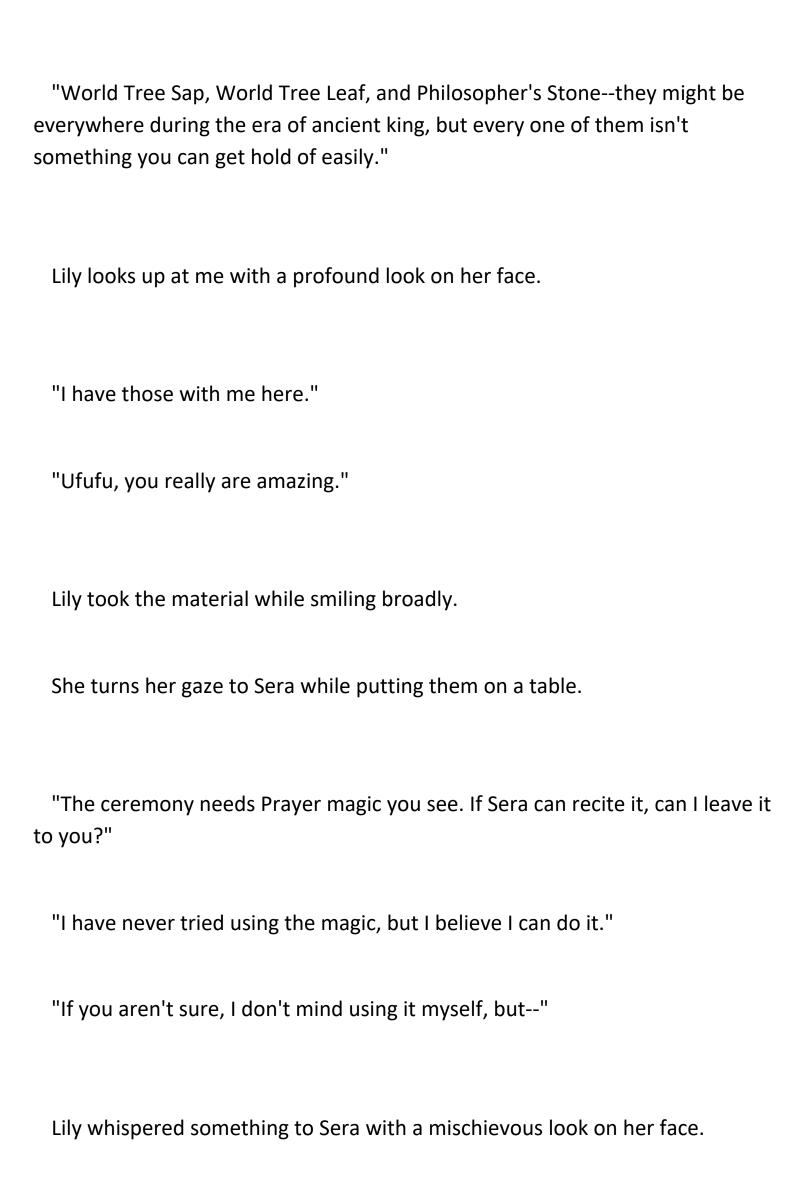


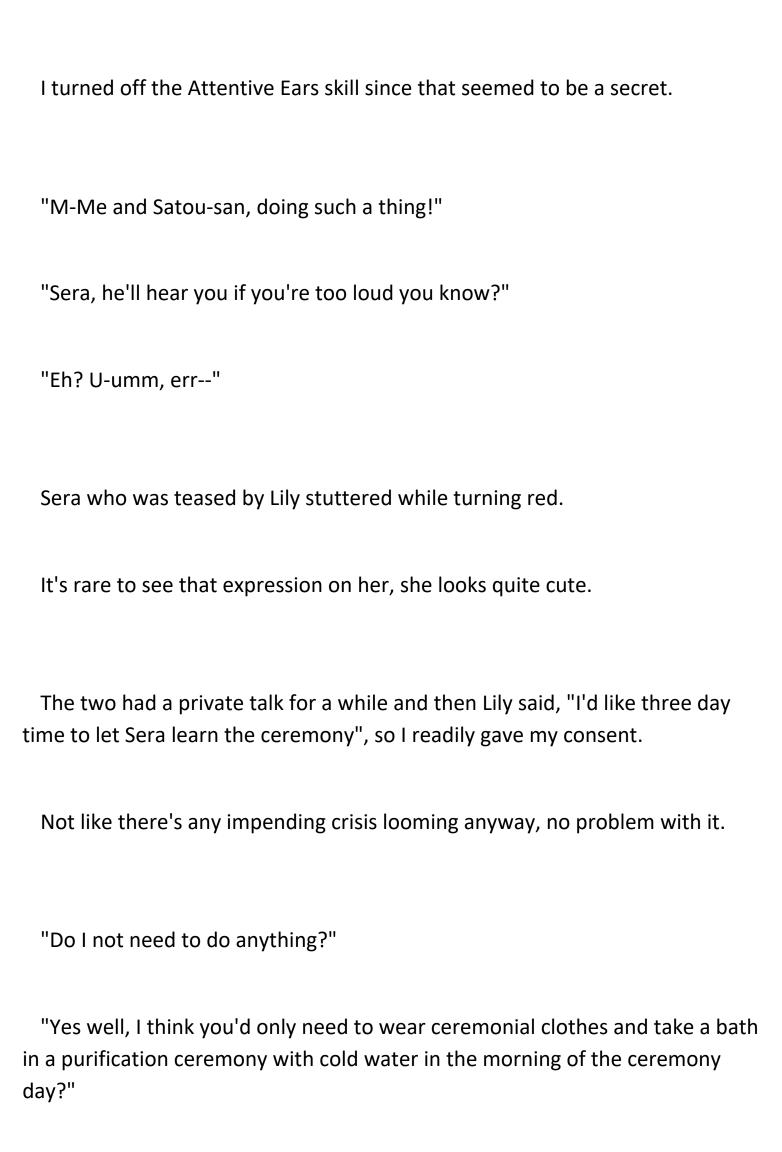
That oracle was
【Gods wish for pious prayers from people and gratitudes for their joyous life.】
like that.
But was that really all there is to it?
"Do you not believe it?"
"I believe in Lily-sama and Sera-san, but it's hard to believe that's what the gods want."
Lily and Sera looked troubled to hear my reply.
"I feel it in my journey and the Weasel Empire, unreasonableness that could be said verging on god's irrationality, I think it's in contrast to wanting prayers and gratitudes."



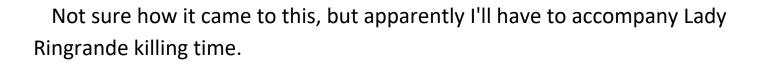
you know?"







Thus, I'm gonna spend the three day time until the appointed day by visiting my acquaintances.
Kuro and Nanashi aside, I haven't visited the duchy capital as Satou a lot after all.
\Diamond
"Satou, where's Sera?"
"She's investigating something in Tenion Temple."
"Oh really"
I got caught by a bored looking Lady Ringrande when I returned to the duke's castle.
She's wearing a light knight outfit today.
"Then you'll be going on a date with me. Let's go have some fun in duchy capital!"



We're both wearing recognition inhibition items since it'll be bad if either of our identities get known.

"Look look! There's Pendragon Bun and Pendragon Kitchen Knife!"

Lady Ringrande was in high spirits while pointing at the items on stalls.

She probably finds it interesting to see me getting embarrassed.

"If you're going there, aren't they selling Ringrande Dolls and Portraits too."

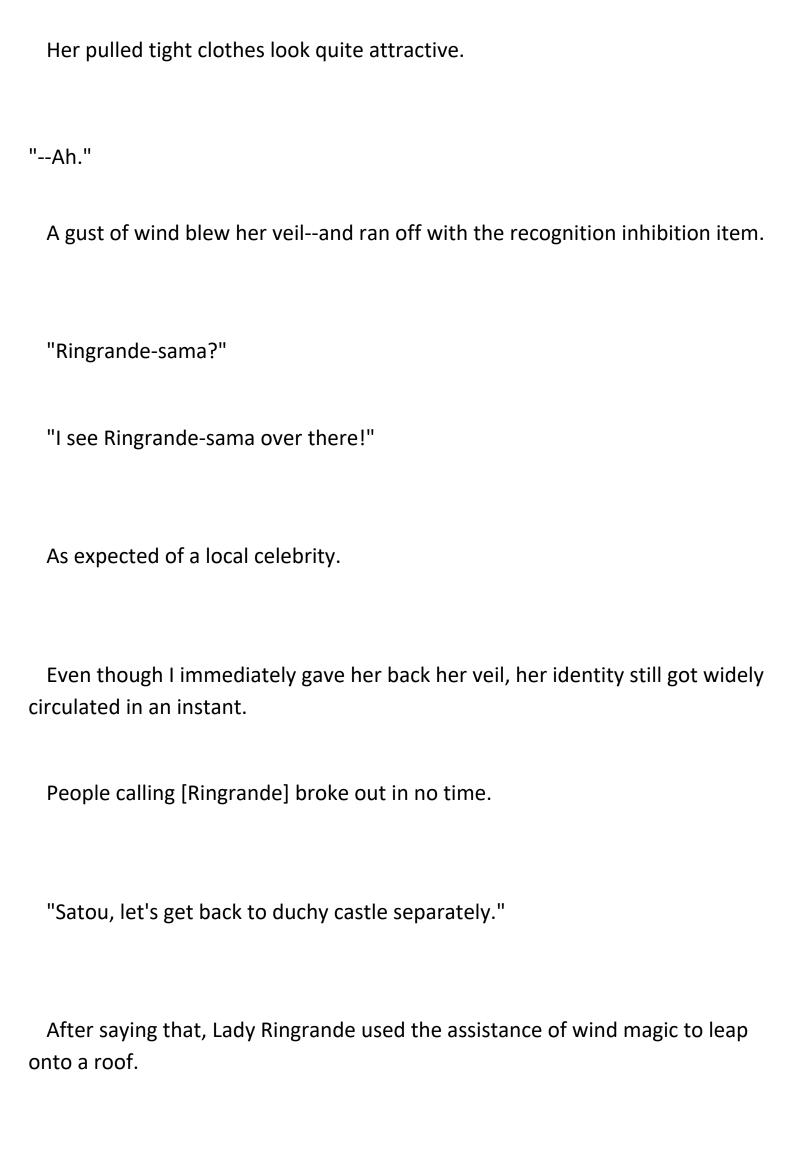
Or rather, there's a lot more of those.

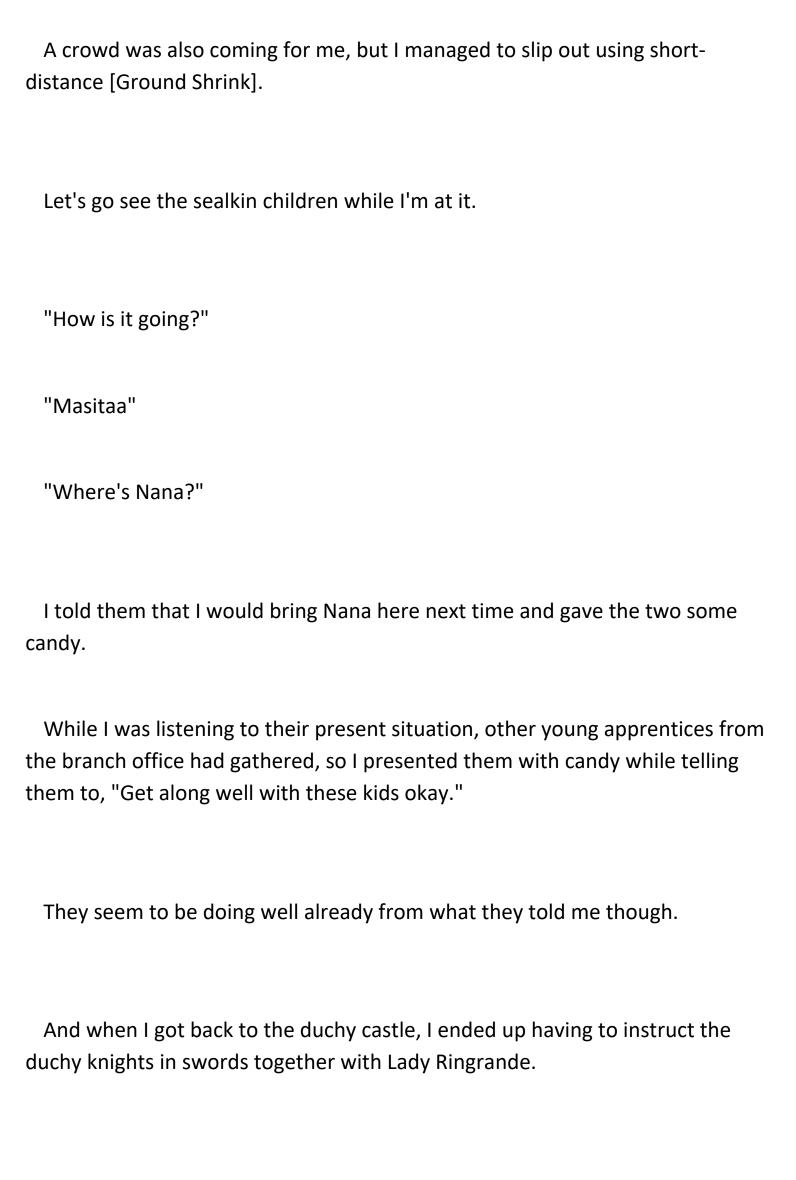
Dolls aside, I wonder if it's alright for them to sell portraits of a duke's daughter as a commodity, but since they're selling it openly, duke Oyugock himself has probably given them his permission.

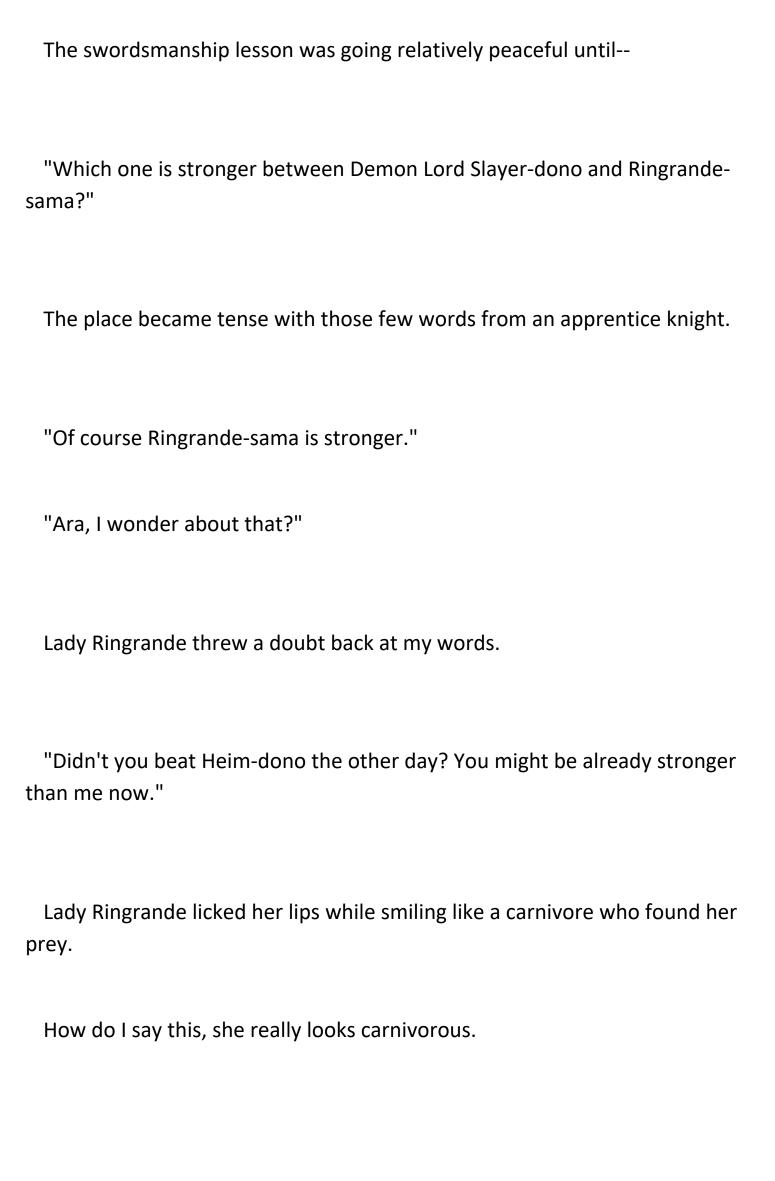
"They've been selling those since ages ago, so it's fine! Forget about that, I

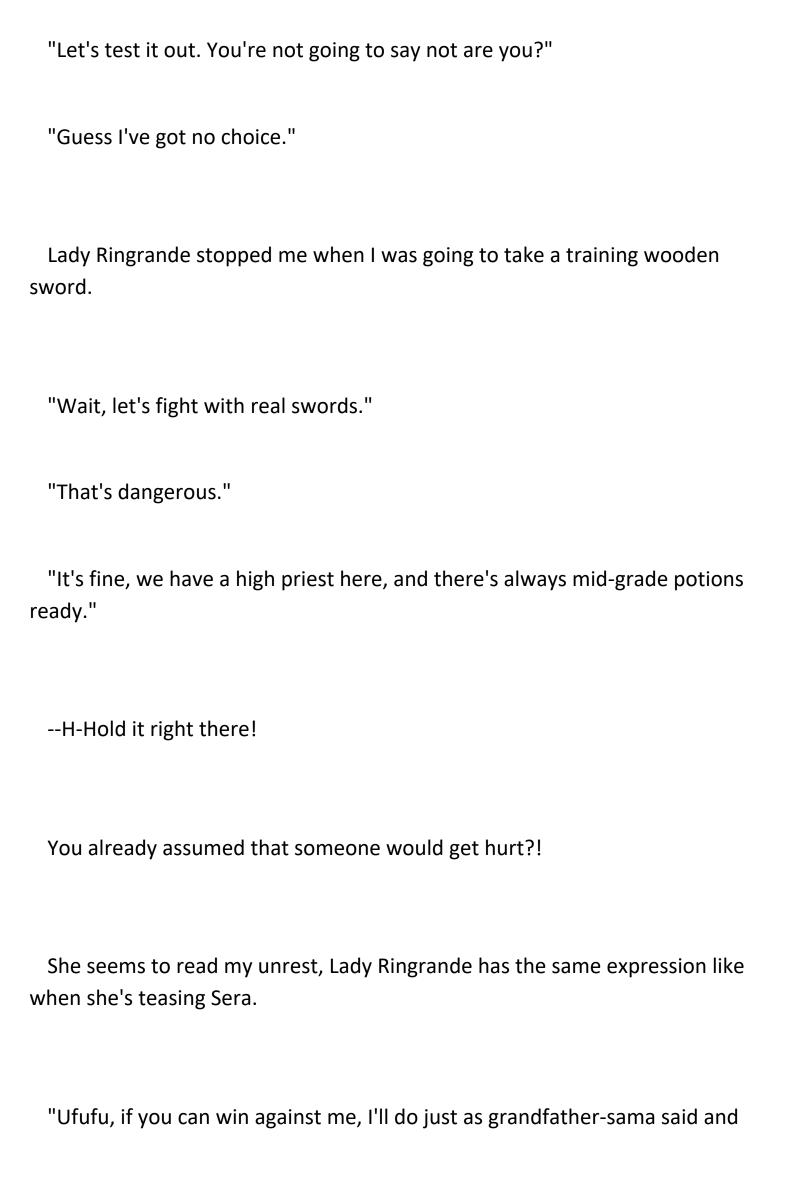


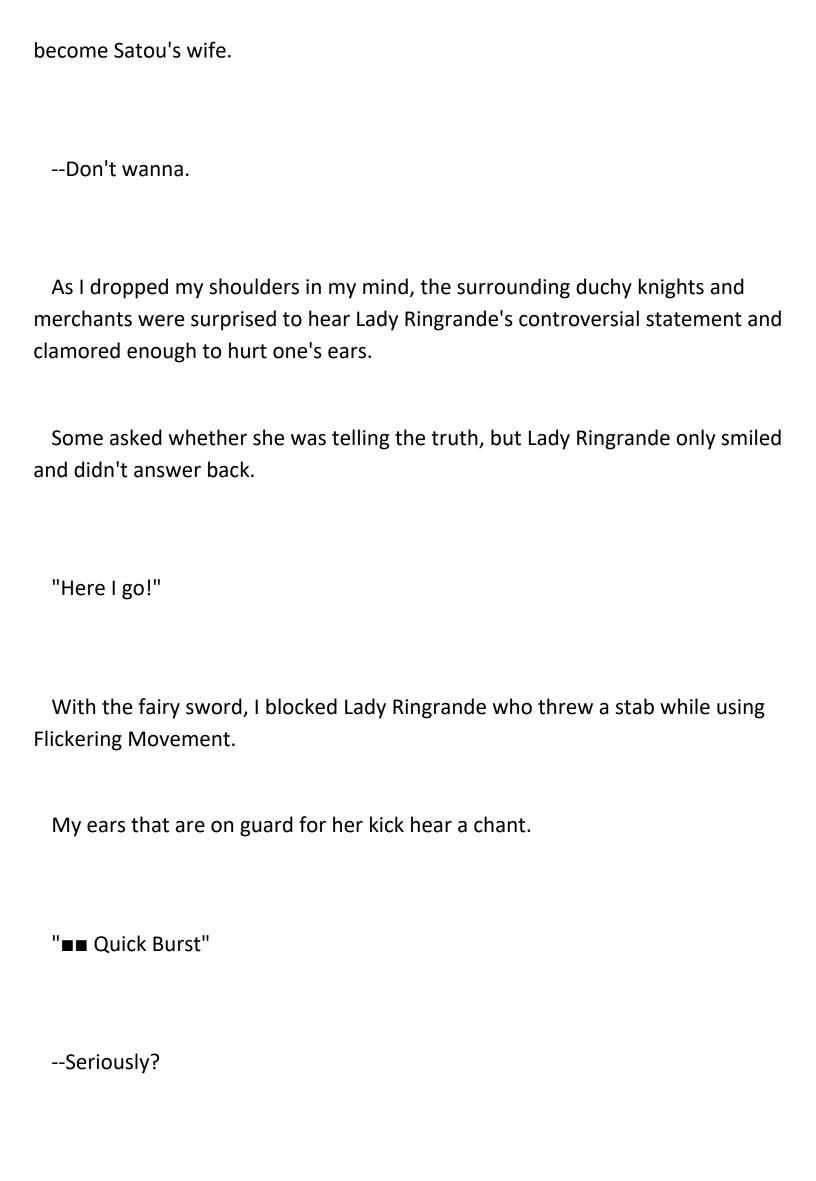


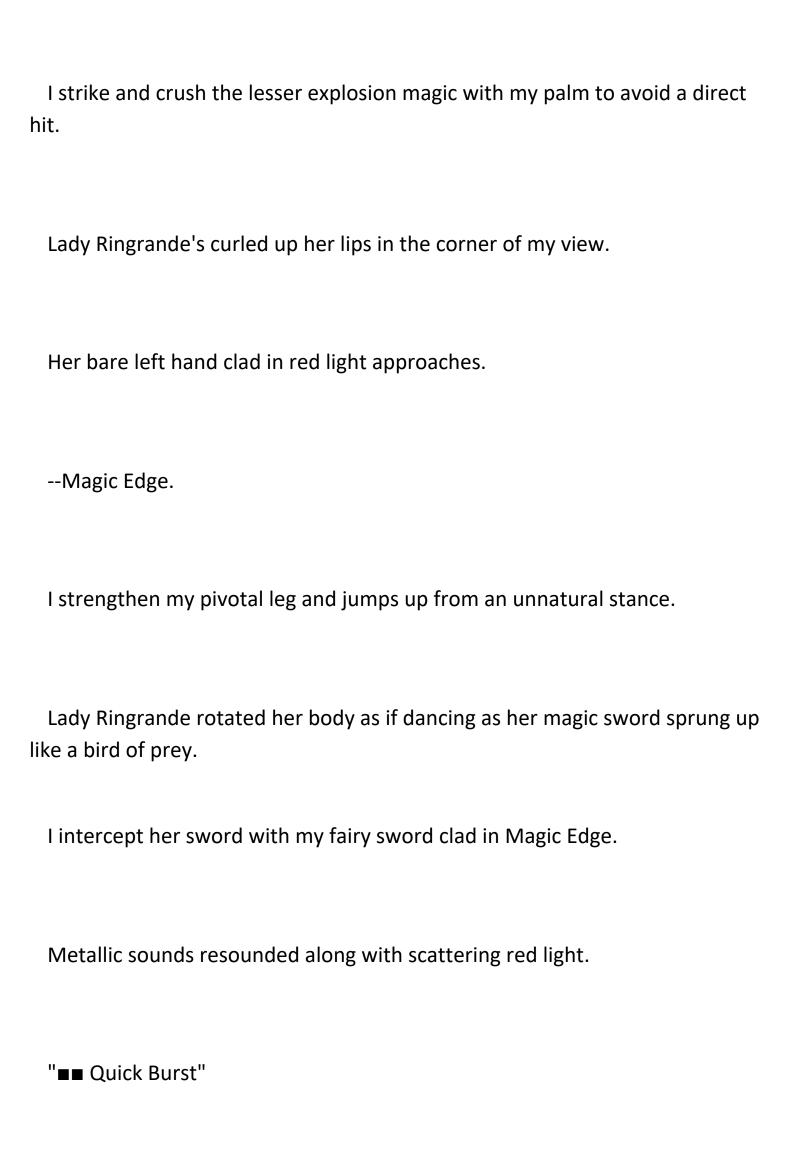


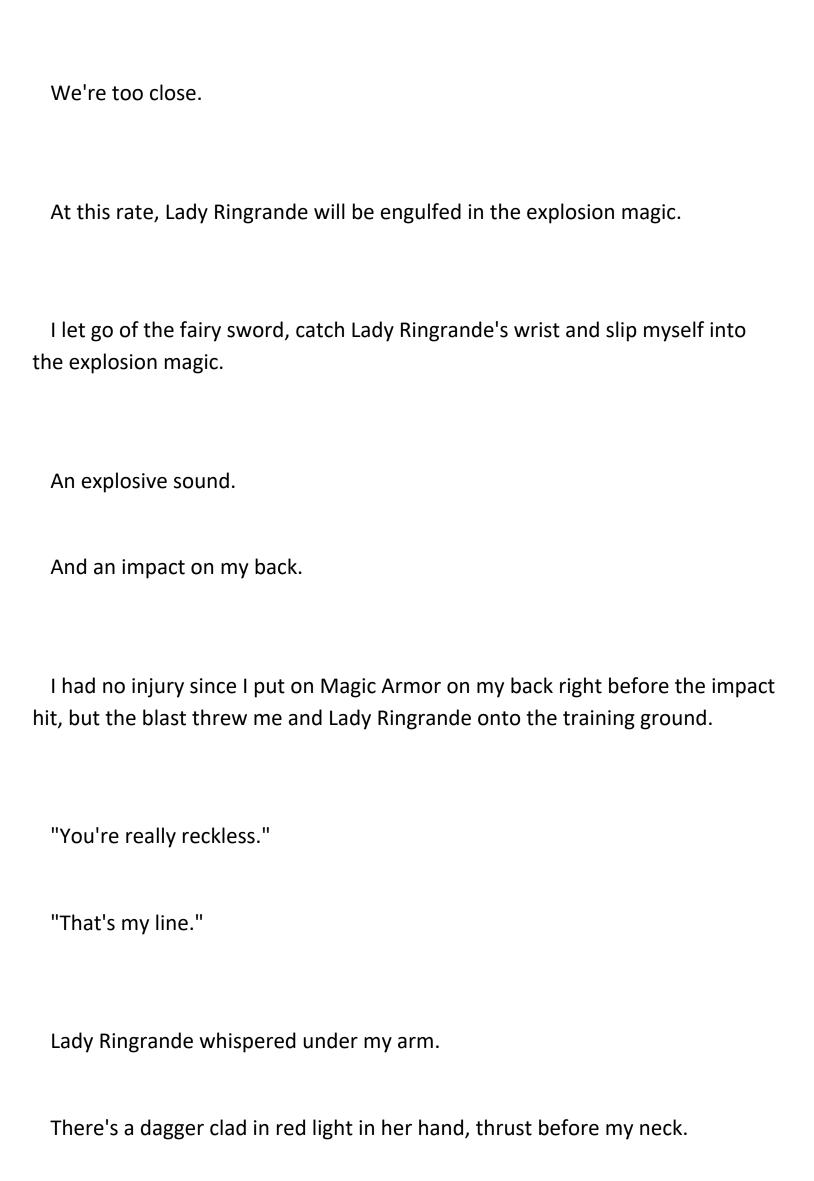


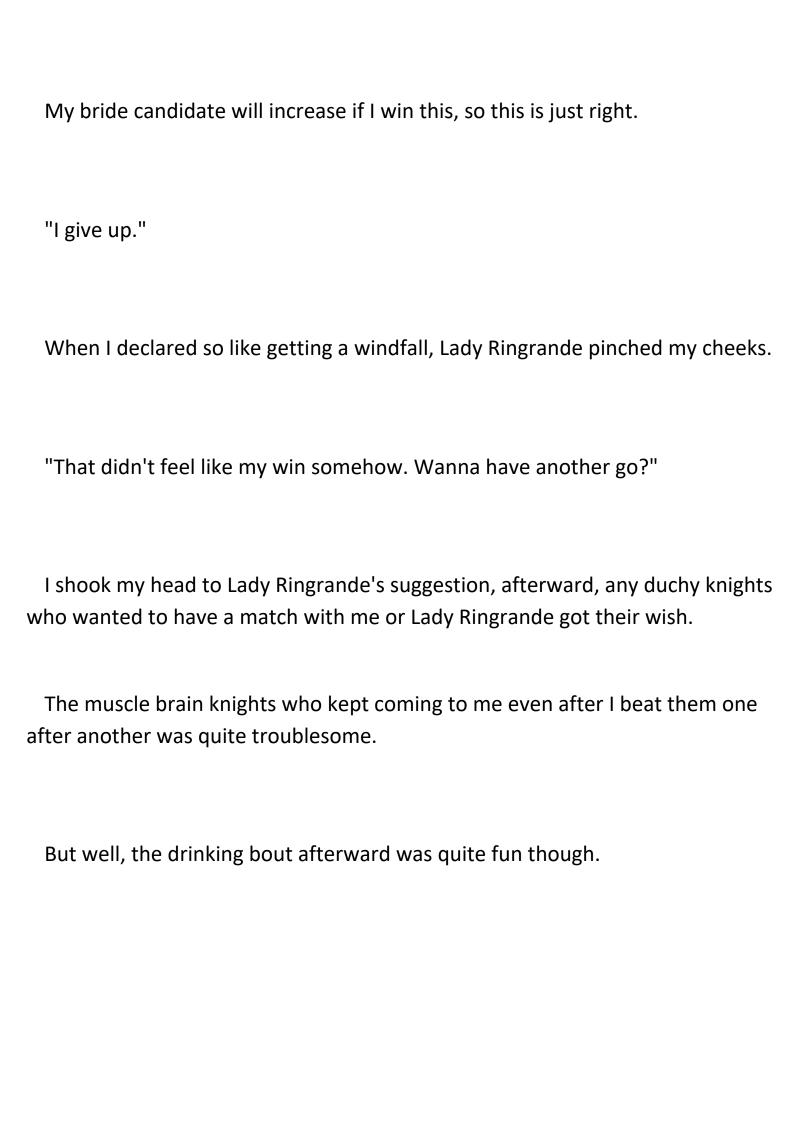












16-9. Sera's Resolution

* This chapter is told from Sera's point of views -- Faith or love, which one should I pick.

The kind and gentle Satou-san cannot approve of the gods' undiscriminating divine punishment.

To the point that it even prompted him to shelter Weasel Empire, who was the culprit, into another world using a power that was no difference than that of god.

If Satou-san were to really come into conflict with gods, I wonder what I should do....



"--To the Duchy capital?"

"I'd like to consult something with Tenion Temple's head miko--Lily-dono you see."

As I was worrying endlessly and stuck in the maze of my mind at the Solitary Island Palace, Satou-san invited me along to the Duchy Capital for a change of pace.

Of course I didn't say no.

"Are we going on an airship today?"

--That's unusual.

Satou-san could have gone back to our Duchy Capital in an instant with his space magic and Unique Skill.

"Yes, sometimes traveling in the air is nice for a change."

"You're right, it is."

This time, I'm the only one among the Solitary Island Palace members who's

going with Satou-san.

A journey of only two, though imprudence, it's a bit exciting.

Yet--.

"Satou-sama, so this is Satou-sama's personal airship."

"Sorry about this, Satou."

Why am I seeing two third wheels here.

"If you really feel sorry then you can just fly there with that Flying Wooden Horse."

I threw some sarcastic words to ane-sama who unreservedly made use of Satou-san while also peeling the touchy feely Ane-sama off Satou-san

I don't want to show dark emotions in front of Satou-san, but I can't control it well when I'm dealing with ane-sama.

I'm sure that the inferiority complex I had in my childhood still remains in the depth of my heart even now.

--Ah!

"Ririna-san, hugging a gentleman's arm who is not your fiance is shameless for a lady."

Good grief, I really cannot let my guard down.

I peeled off Ririna who promptly clung on Satou-san's arm.

"Ara? Sera, are you being jealous of a kid?"

"I'm not jealous! I'm just guiding her how to act like a lady."

"Hmmm, guiding huh--"

I calmly brushed off ane-sama who chided me while looking happy.

"--Ey!"

Ane-sama suddenly embraced Satou-san's head.

"Onee-sama! You're shameless!"

I cannot believe it.

It's another matter with Ririna who's still a child, but it isn't something an adult woman like ane-sama should act like.

"Ara? Grandfather-sama told me to marry Satou you know? That means we're like fiance and fiancee now right?"

Grandfather-sama....

Please stop with such jokes, it will only serve to stimulate ane-sama.

I endured myself to deal with ane-sama until we arrived at the duchy capital in order to prevent her from troubling Satou-san.

Yes, I was relieved from the bottom of my heart the moment I saw the duchy castle's spire from the window.



"It has been awhile Satou-san."

"Nice to meet you again, Head Miko--No, Miko Lily."

The morning after the day we arrived at the duchy capital, I accompanied Satou-san to visit Tenion Temple.

Satou-san wishes to meet the gods.

"Since that's what you wish for, I'd love to have it granted it, but--"

Lily-sama paused.

"If you want to talk with a god yourself, then there is no choice but to use Invoke Deity to let a god advent into my body."

--Invoke Deity.

It's the ultimate holy magic to let one part of god descend unto your own Soul Vessel.

In the history books of Tenion temple, there were records of miko and priests utilizing Invoke Deity in order to fights against demon lords and greater

demons' invasions.

However, every one of them required a great compensation.

Worse than even losing their life, they apparently had their Soul Vessel broken.

It probably is not possible for the tiny vessel of man to bring into themselves a huge existence that is god.

"No, the compensation for that magic is much too big."

"If it's for you and this world's sake, I don't mind giving up this soul of mine you know?"

Lily-sama jokingly said that to Satou-san who was shaking his head.

However, Lily-sama is being serious.

I'm scared that she would really do it were Satou-san nodded.

Lily-san suggested the method an ancient king used to have a dialog with gods to Satou-san who asked for another mean.

We asked for the current head-miko's permission to enter Tenion Temple's banned archive and looked for the document we sought.

"Here it is--looks like it needs quite a difficult ceremony."

Lily-sama muttered while looking over a banned book.

The ceremony needed some rare items, but Satou-san arranged them up in a line with a calm face as usual.

Please stop treating the philosopher's stone like taking a pebble out of your pocket.

Look, Lily-sama is gettng dumbfounded there.

"Ufufu, you really are amazing."

The childish looking Lily-sama smiles at Satou-san.

Her maiden in love air is making my heart ache, I wonder if I'm imagining things.

"The ceremony needs Prayer magic you see. If Sera can recite it, can I leave it

to you?"

"I have never tried using the magic, but I believe I can do it."

"If you aren't sure, I don't mind using it myself, but--"

Lily-sama whispered into my ears with a mischievous look on her face.

"--The ceremony requires you two to stick together in bare."

"B-bare?"

Shameless!

It's too shameless!

An unmarried maiden embracing with a gentleman naked!!

"But Sera, aren't you used to embracing Satou-san naked?"

Lily-sama said some unbelievable things.

"M-Me and Satou-san, doing such a thing!"

"Sera, he'll hear you if you're too loud you know?"

"Eh? U-umm, err--"

Lily-sama reproved me when I reflexively shouted out loud.

"So what would you do, Sera? I can do it for you if you're embarrassed you know?"

Lily-sama looks into my eyes with a teasing look.

The figures of Satou-san and Lily-sama embracing each other in nude flashed in my mind.

-- I don't want that.

I resolved myself at the words that flashed for an instant.

I breathe deeply and put strength in my stomach.

"--I will do it."

Lily-sama nodded satisfyingly at my limp teary sounding voice that was in contrast to my resolution.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



After parting with Satou-san who went back to the duchy castle, I was led by Lily-sama to a work room at a corner of the sanctuary.

"Well then Sera. Please work on this."

She handed me a ceremonial white holy robe and two spools of jade silk thread.

Along with a handbook about ceremonial embroidery patterns.

--Don't tell me, I have to embroider the holy robe starting from now?

"U-umm, but the ceremony is in two days...."

"It's alright, I'm sure Sera could do it."

Lily-sama replied my question with a smile.

"You're good at embroidery right?"

"Yes...."

It appears that there is no escaping this.

"I'll do my best."

I quickly and carefully begin to embroider.

Of course, I'm doing it while putting my prayers to god Tenion.

I kept working until total exhaustion, and on midnight of the ceremony day--

"Oh no, I fell asleep."

I raised up in a hurry and checked to see if the holy robe were dirtied.

--Eh?

Even though there should have been more than half of unfinished

embroideries, everything is already done.

Having no idea what happened, I looked around and found nutritional supplements and snacks that would still taste good eaten cold at the corner of a table.

"...Satou-san."

Warmth coming from the bottom of my heart warms me up.

<--O my dear human child>

A voice that isn't a voice.

<O young girl in love>

Neither it is a thought, the words fall from the sanctuary's ceiling.

<Speak of your feelings.>

I surrender myself to the sudden oracle.

I spoke to my heart's content just as god Tenion desired.



--The next morning.

The embroidery pattern on the robes gets transcribed onto my body by Lilysama and current head miko-sama's holy magic.

Everything is ready now.

"Sera, give it your all."

"I'm sure you can do it."

"Yes, Lily-sama, head miko-sama."

Miko who have undergone purification ceremony are lined up along the ceremony place.

"King entering--"

Satou-san who was wearing ancient king-like clothing walked into the ceremony in the sanctuary.

Coupled with the classical king clothing, today Satou-san really looks like a king.

He looks more dignified than usual.

"O king, stand before miko."

Satou-san followed the current head mike words and came walking here.

Satou-san whose eyes met mine lets out his usual gentle smile.

Even though he's going to communicate with god Tenion, he's acting like he always is.

"O king, discard your worldly garment."

Two mike take off Satou-san's clothing.

It was over in an instant since there was only one piece.

The mike blushed to see Satou-san's symmetrical naked body.

I stared at Satou-san's calm eyes to keep my line of sight from going down.

"O miko of guidance, discard your worldly garment."

The miko take off my robe.

When I think that Satou-san is watching, I feel so embarrassed it's enough to turn my whole body red.

Even though I'm feeling this embarrassed, Satou-san looks nonchalant as usual.

It's somehow--no, it's really frustrating.

But this isn't the time for that.

I have to continue with the ceremony for Satou-san's sake--.

"O miko of guidance, show the king the way."

I spread both my arms and embrace Satou-san's upper arms.

Even though Satou-san's body look as soft as that of a woman, it's covered with slightly hard muscles.

The serene light of the sanctuary, and the words of miko celebrating for god

soothe my heart that's falling into disarray from that sensation.

--God.

I look up at the sanctuary's ceiling and calls for god Tenion.

--Great god who watches over us.

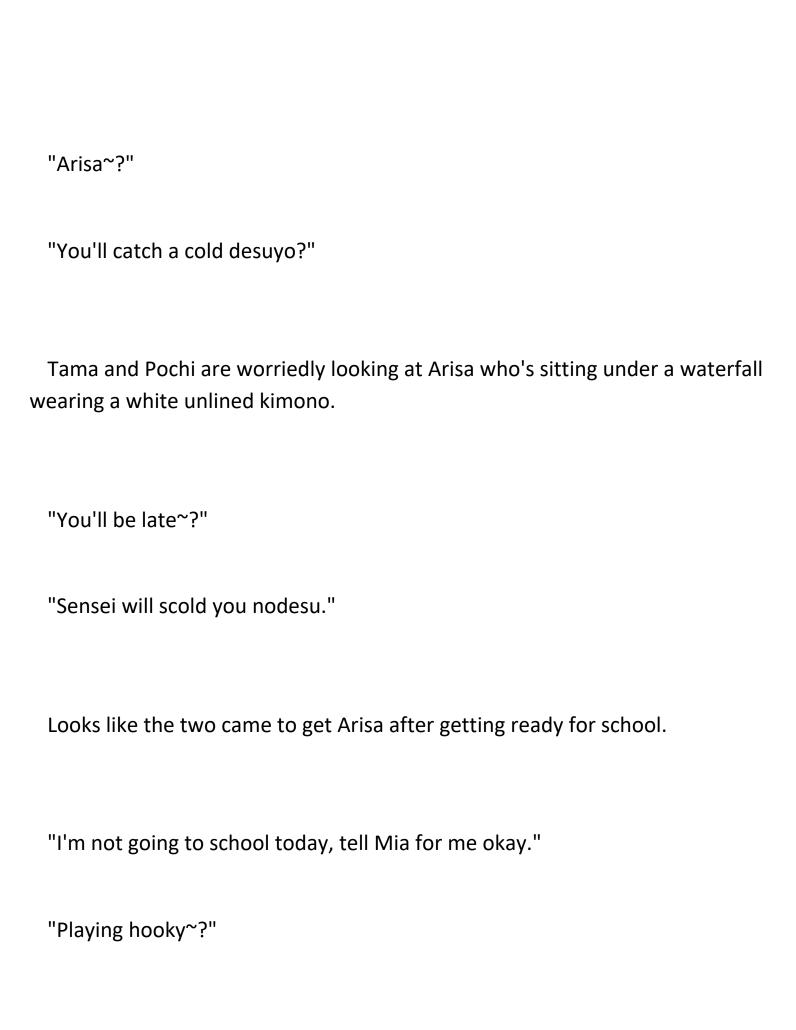
A light falls from the sky as if answering my call.

This warm light is god Tenion's holy light.

I surrender myself to god Tenion's holy light like I always did when receiving oracles.

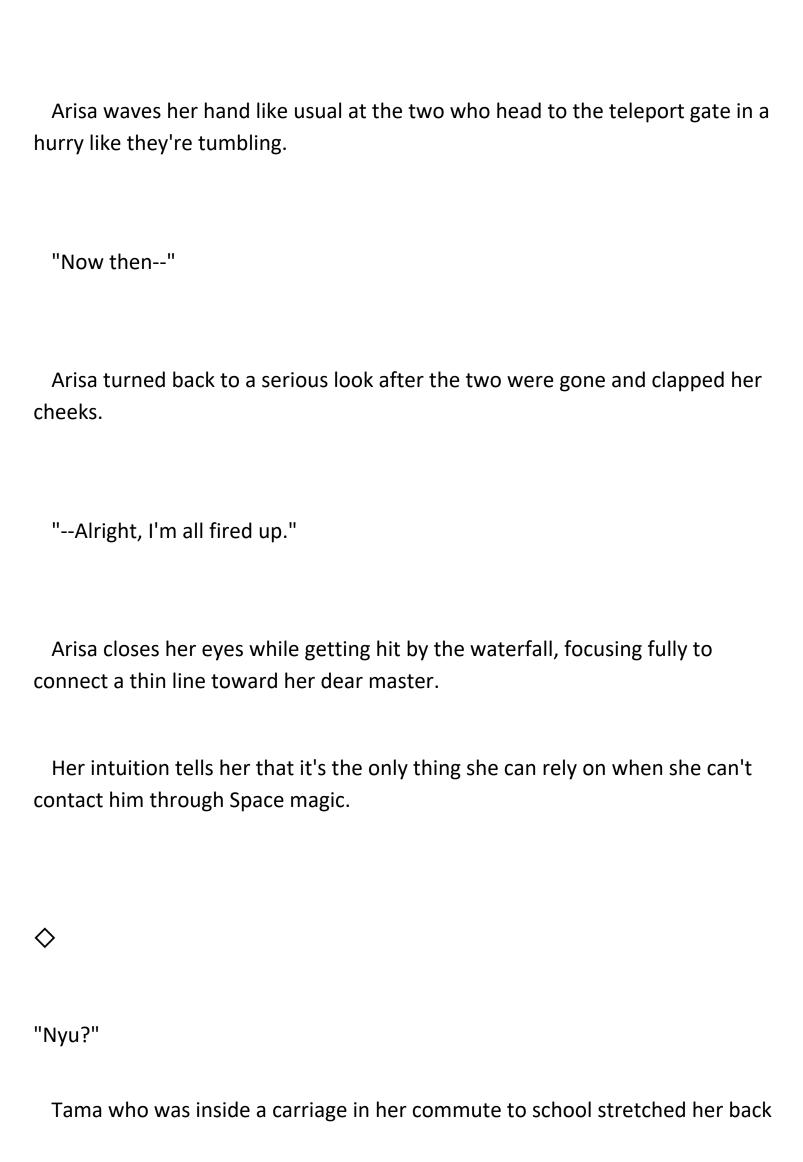
<O my dear human children. O king who calls for me by way of maiden. State your wish-->

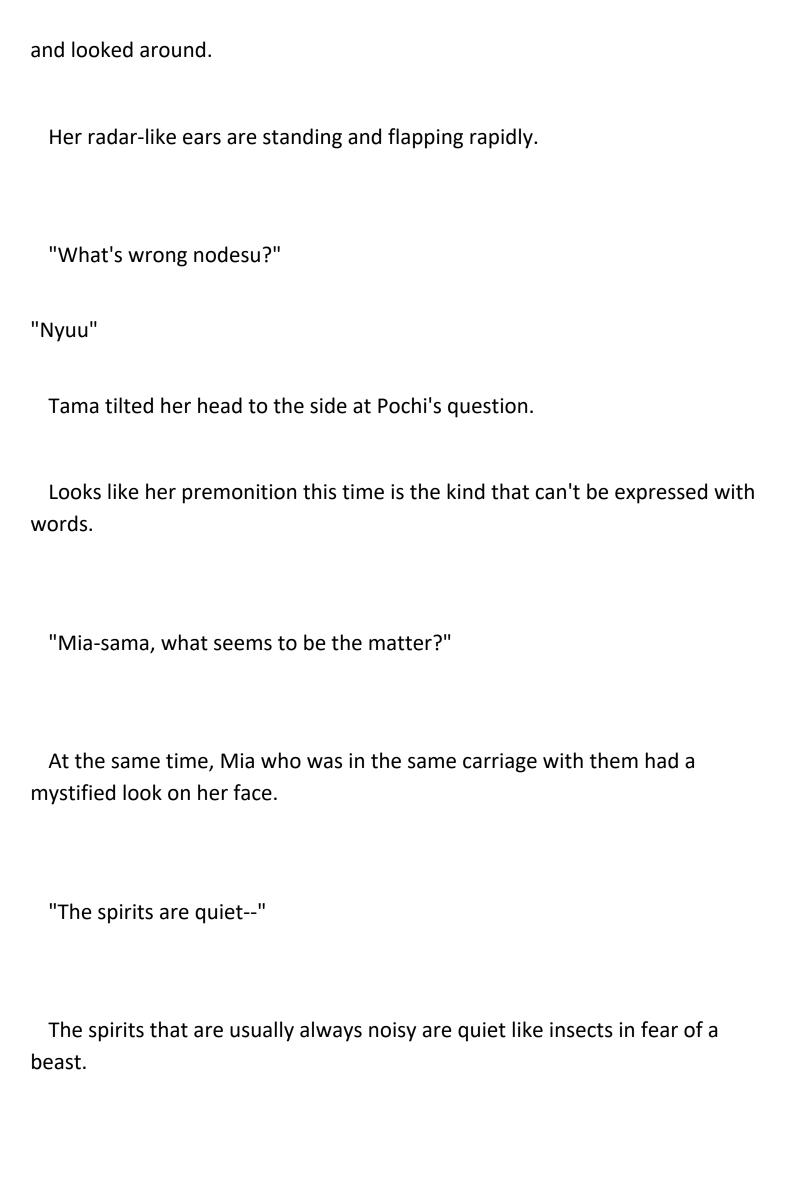
16-10. Behind the Ceremony (1)



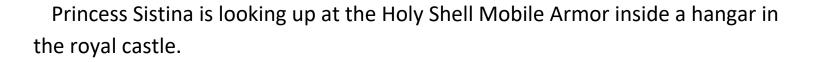
"Hikineet is risky and dangerous nodesu!"
Tama and Pochi looked like they couldn't believe Arisa who declared her absence.
For the two who have only recently started school and really enjoyed it, they probably can't believe that she'll be taking a leave even though she's not sick.
"It's fine! I've got to do something more important today!"
"What is~?"
"Please tell us nodesu."
"You heard that Master would do a ceremony at the duchy capital during breakfast right?"
"Aye."
"Yes nanodesu."
Tama and Pochi affirmed Arisa's question.
"I'm sharpening my mind just in case I catch an SOS from master through [Familiar~ Power~] you see."











She probably almost slipped "that Satou made" words.

Beside her, Zena Marientail who's acting as her bodyguard, and Karina Muno who's acting as her friend are looking up at the Holy Shell Mobile Armor with sparkling eyes.

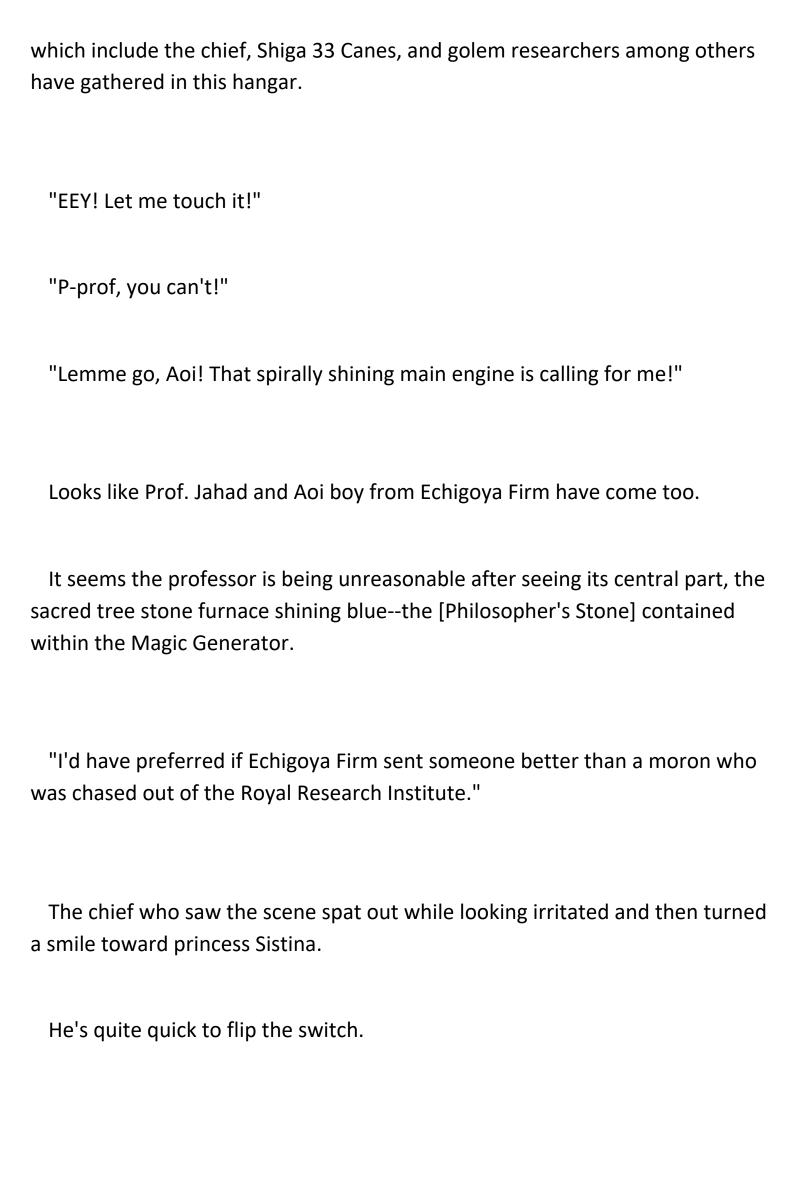
The two are aware that this one is a replica, but the fact that it looks exactly like the legendary Holy Shell Mobile Armor is enough to turn it into an object of admiration.

In place of the two who are overcome with emotions the one who answers princess Sistina is an old man who comes walking in with a cane.

"Yes, his majesty has given his permission for us to activate the main engine, therefore we're planning to perform a startup test today."

The chief of Royal Research Institute informed princess Sistina.

In order to examine the Holy Shell Mobile Armor, the brains of this kingdom,



"While the main engine and armaments of this Holy Shell Mobile Armor are great, its armor is simply magnificent. Please look at it, under the white coat hidden an armorplate made of the holy orichalcum referred as divine metal by some."

"You just don't get it do you, tinplate nerd."

Interrupting the chief who almost sounded delirious was an elderly man who is a member of Shiga 33 Canes and does research on defensive magic.

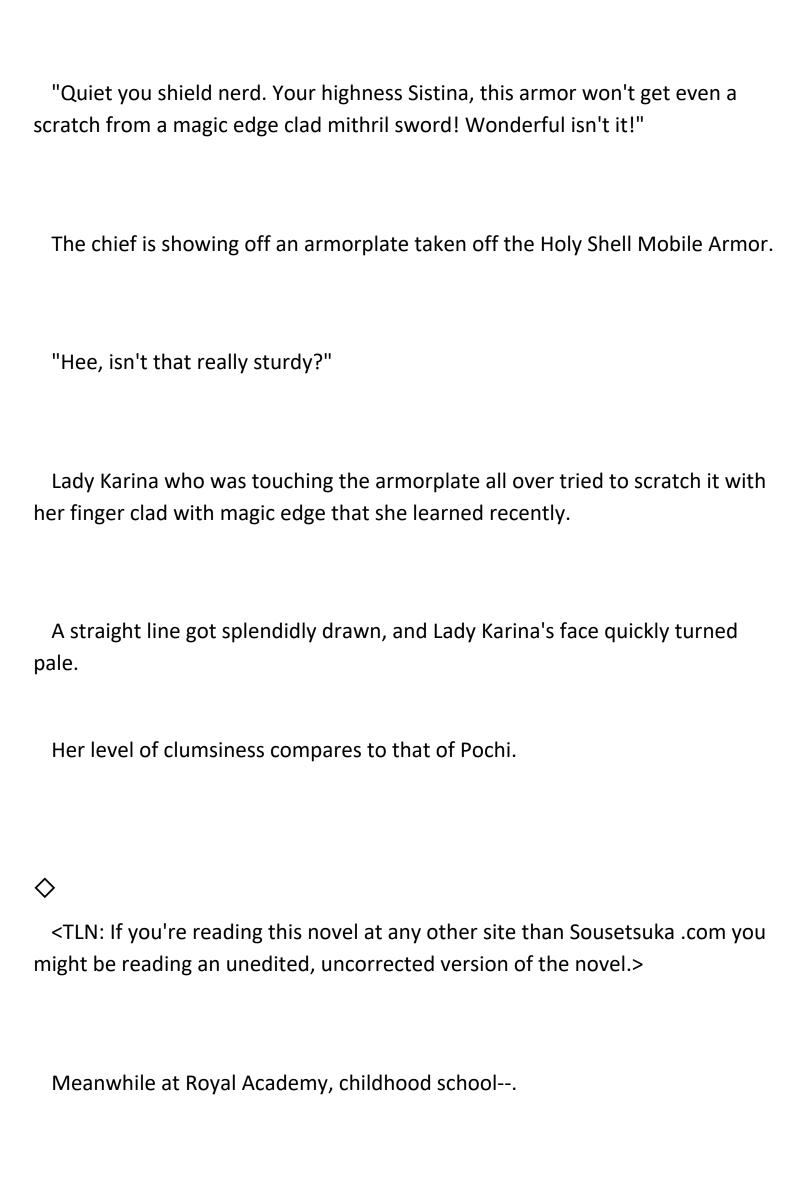
"How can you not comprehend the splendor of this coating! Your highness Sistina, this coat is exactly the proof of Shiga Kingdom guardian. In addition to having the power to nullify up to mid-class level magic, it has the ability to absorb the liberated mana from magic it nullifies into its own main engine!"

"T-that sounds wonderful. Rahad-dono is really talented to understand that far this quick."

Princess Sistina inched back to see a fervent speech of an elderly man.

As she had been informed of that ability by Satou, she seemed to be surprised by the fact that it was analyzed so quick.

Identifying the effect that is, reproducing it is another matter entirely.





nodesu." A rolled textbook got on the head of Pochi who was having a fervent speech. Reflected in the eyes of Pochi who looked up was a female teacher whose mood turned for the worse. "Ah--" "Chatting during class is?" "B-bad nanodesu." "And what should you do when you did bad things?" "We're sorry~?" "We're sorry nanodesu." Pochi whose ears are flopped down and tail is hidden between her legs apologizes to the female teacher. "You'd go without lunch as a penalty if you did it again." "Ga~n"

"O-oh no nanodesu."
Tama's and Pochi's bodies were paralyzed in fear when the female teacher told them the weight of penalty for a major offense.
They look at each other and make a mouth zip gesture.
30 minutes until lunchtime.
Incited by Tama's belly rumbling, Pochi's belly rumbling began to have a chorus together.
The chorus gradually spread inside the classroom.
"Formula 4."
At the Royal Magic Academy, Mia-sensei is using a long wand as a substitute for lecture stick to teach her class.

"Conversion, solution 27."
The students are desperately deciphering Mia-sensei's lack of words as they try to understand the lecture.
Looks like there is a different kind of hardships to be found in a lecture without an excellent translator that is Arisa.
"I-if only Arisa-sensei was here now"
"A-Arisa-sensei"
It appears a lot of students and teachers who usually ridiculed Arisa as being Mia-sensei's extra have realized her true worth now.
However, only a few noticed the fact that her being able to translate it means that her understanding of magic is equaling Mia-sensei or more.
Arisa-sensei who would have gotten a passionate call by the students unlike anything before had she were here is probably still doing the cold water ablutions under the waterfall in the Solitary Island Palace even now.

♦
"Ara?"
Princess Sistina felt something odd from the Mobile Armor behind the chief.
You normally need the assistance of multiple mechanics and magicians to board the Mobile Armor, but there isn't anyone who's supporting the Mobile Armor now.
And it seems princess Sistina wasn't the only one who noticed that.
"Oy! Who's moving it!"
Someone who found something amiss with the elevator where the Mobile Armor was put beside the Holy Shell Mobile Armor shouted.
"What? We're not using the Mobile Armor for the startup test y'know?"
"Who's piloting it?"

Mobile Armor is something like an anti-gravity device for the pilot of Holy Shell Mobile Armor, so it's not needed unless the test demands intense movements.

Incidentally, this Mobile Armor isn't the real one, but a replica Satou made.

"Tina-sama, Karina-sama, we should get away from here. There's something wrong going on."

[Umu, I agree with Zena-dono's opinion.]

《Intelligent Item》Raka that lady Karina wore agreed with Zena-san who advised them to evacuate.

As the three were on their way to the office to take shelter, sounds of metal getting crushed resounded in the hangar.

The three looked back and saw scaffold and elevator that enclosed the Holy Shell Mobile Armor collapsing to the ground.

Magicians and researchers in white robes are running about in confusion below.

"This is bad desuwa!"

[Ka-Karina-dono, wait!!]

Disregarding Raka's warning, Lady Karina charged toward the collapsing scaffold.

Lady Karina roughly pushed away the researchers who were about to be crushed by the collapsing scaffold.

Main part of the scaffold and steel frames are falling toward Lady Karina who's had a decisive look on her face.

--Karina-sama!

Zena and princess Sistina raised a scream in their mind as they held out their hands equipped with magic activation rings and began to chant.

Both of them are fully aware of the fact that their chant won't make it in time.

They saw Raka protecting Lady Karina from the steel frames that fell first, and then one after another hit the ground as the surroundings were filled with despairing roaring sounds and cloud of dust.



"Haa... Satou and Sera aren't here for the ceremony, I can't visit them either, I'm bored."

In an arbor inside a courtyard of the Duchy Castle that occupied the western part of Oyugock City, Lady Ringrande who's also known as [Sky Champion Witch] is bored out of her mind.

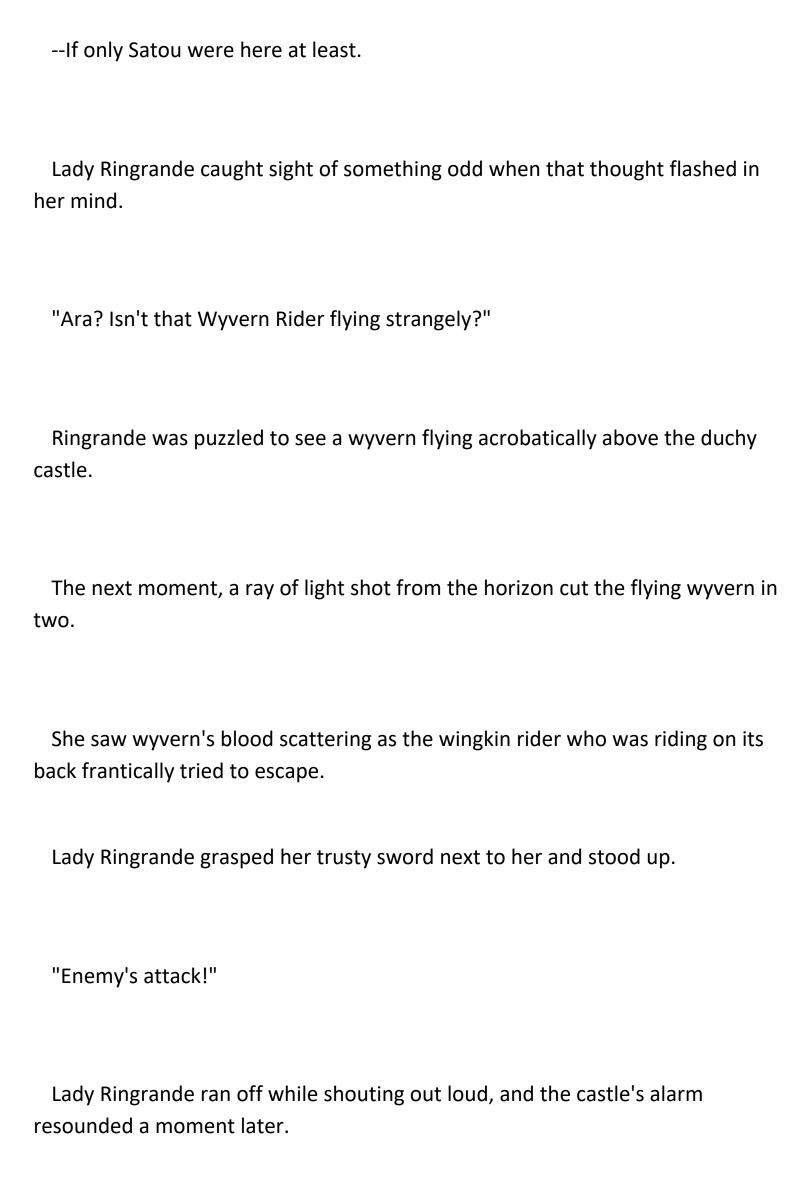
Of course, it's not like she doesn't have any close friend.

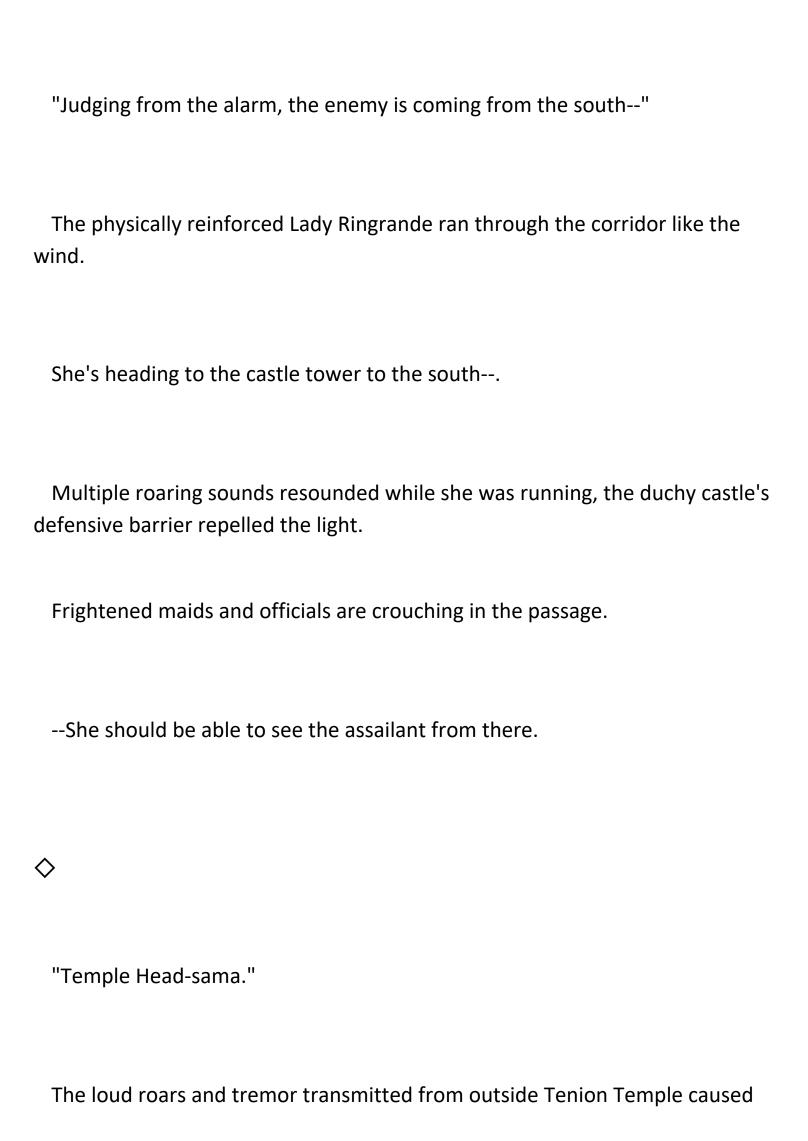
However, most of them are already married and have many children.

For a late bloomer at her age with no boyfriend like her, visiting them is a difficult hurdle to mentally overcome.

"Maybe I should have another practice round with the duchy knights..."

She felt hesitant to practice as there wasn't anyone who could fight her evenly here.





unrest amongst the priests who participated in the ceremony.

Fortunately, Sera, Satou, Lily who supported them and the other mike haven't noticed the loud sounds and tremor because they are in trance states.

"Keep going. This sanctuary is protected by Tenion-sama's divine protection. Don't worry and continue."

Hearing the temple head, the priests resume channeling their mana to the miko one after another.

(Tenion-sama, please extend your protection to your pious believers.)

The temple head offered her prayer to the light that came down to Sera and Satou.

Unaware with the incidents that simultaneously happened in both the royal capital and the duchy capital, Satou is having a chance meeting with God Tenion during the ceremony.

[Nice to meet you, Tenion-sama. I am--]

16-11. Behind the Ceremony (2)

"--Appeared?"

"Are the anti-air Magic Artillery and the ballistas still not ready!"
"Birdkin unit, wyvern unit, take off in turn. Take the formation in the air."
"Replace the equipment of golem unit with anti-air one!"
"The assault force is coming! Make absolutely sure that fire wand unit and magic soldier unit are accompanied by escort platoons!"
Wind magicians transmitted instructions from the duchy castle's control room.
The next duke who holds the authority as the territory lord's proxy showed up in the control room.
"Give me a status update."
"A combat-ready large-scale aerial warship has appeared out of thin air in the sky above the duchy capital."

A huge aerial warship is projected on the basin put in front of the next duke.

The ship's organic-looking form in purple and black color leaves an ominous impression on anyone looking at it.

"According to the report from soldiers in the lookout tower, it suddenly appeared in the sky above the duchy capital."

"Not on the outer edge the capital?"

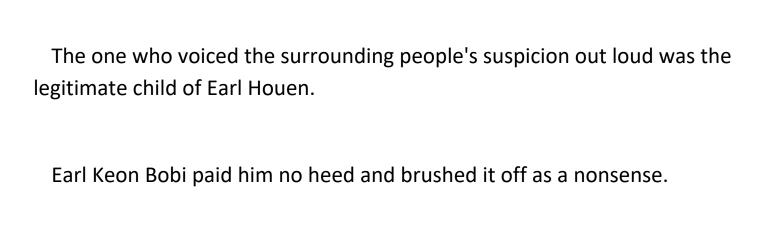
"Yes."

The next duke knitted his brows dubiously to hear the report.

If it appeared right outside the duchy capital, then it might have employed light magic to hide itself, or hid in the cloud using water magic as a possible explanation, but there is simply no way an aerial warship that huge could appear out of nowhere in the middle of the capital without him, the lord's proxy, noticing.

The only way it could slip through barrier put by the City Core and invade without the lord's proxy not noticing are through shadow magic or space magic, however, it shouldn't be possible for either magic to move an aerial warship that huge in the air.





"Stop, Sir Houen. Hero Nanashi himself has guaranteed Keon-dono's innocent."

With irritation in his voice, the next duke warned the two who had formed a dangerous air between them.

The [Guaranteed by Hero Nanashi] part stemmed from the member list of [Wings of Liberty] that Hero Nanashi gave to the duke.

"However..."

"If you want, I don't mind touching the Yamato Stone of this castle once again?"

Seeing Sir Houen looking discontent, Earl Keon Bobi suggested an easy way to prove his innocence while smiling sarcastically.

Since it's a very disgraceful act for a noble.

"No need. More importantly, we need to deal with that airship now." "Agree. Your excellency, we must not let that airship get close here. We have to destroy it before it approaches the duchy castle." Earl Keon Bobi proposed an extreme measure in his reply to the next duke. "Are you suggesting that we should shoot down a large aerial warship right above the duchy capital?" Doing that in the middle of the overcrowded duchy capital would undoubtedly result in enormous victims. "I am. However, that is our best course of action. Have your excellency's forgotten the modus operandi of the [Wings of Liberty]." "...Short horn!" Before, a group of demon lord believers [Wings of Liberty] who revived the [Golden Wild Boar King] under the duchy capital terrorized the dukedom by

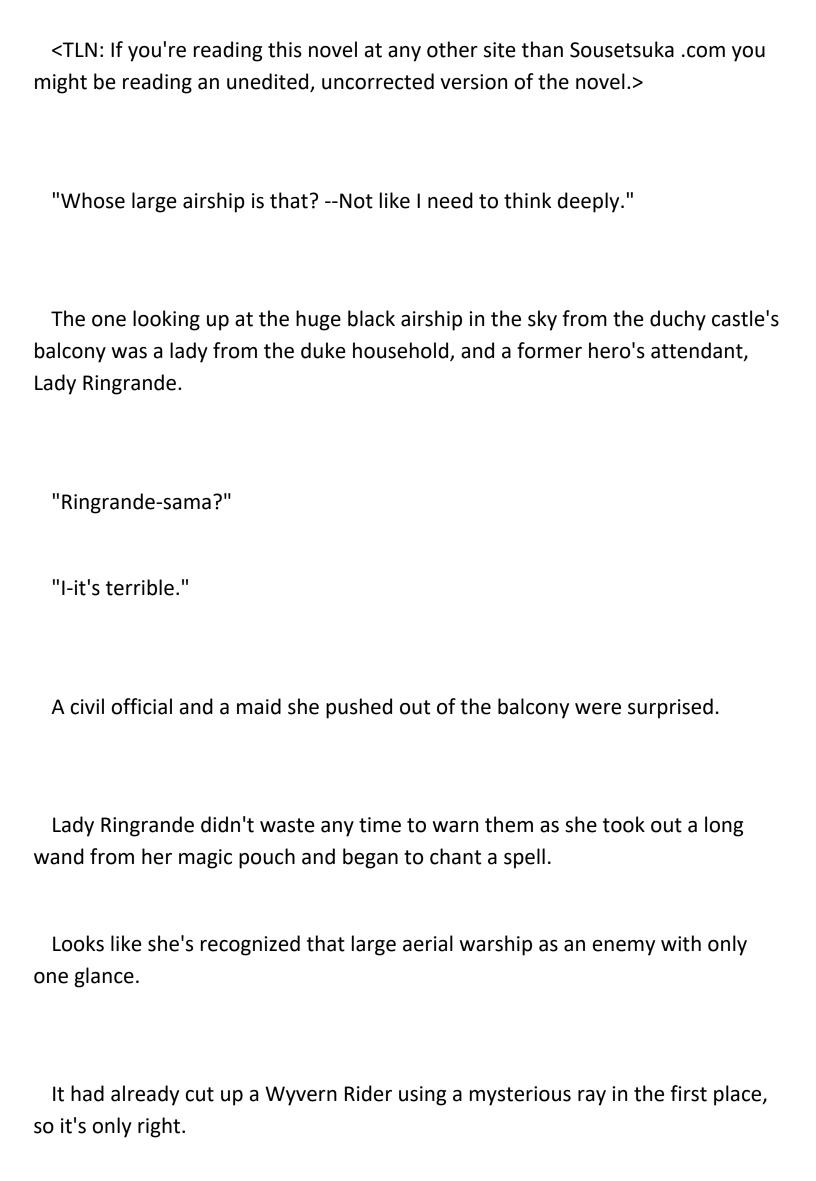
using evil items called Short Horn and Long Horn to transform humans into

lesser and mid demons.

Earl Keon Bobi thinks that the large aerial warship isn't merely a combat vessel, but also an assault warship that contains demons within.
"Tell me the warship's location!"
"It's going to reach the sky above the arena soon."
A wind magician replied the next duke's query.
The arena is between the commoners' and the nobles' living areas.
It's the optimal location if they want to minimize human damage.
"The large aerial warship has made a new move! A large magic artillery installed on its bow has begun operating."

The basin showing the large aerial warship got painted white at the same time as the report hit.





"■■ Boost Magic, ■■■ Manipulate Mana, ■■■■ Link Mana Line, and while I'm at it, the special magic strengthening medicine--"

Lady Ringrande used magic reinforcement skills in succession and even drank a rare medicine she acquired in her trip with hero to boost her magic.

If it was the past her, she would have used the Talisman from God Parion without a moment of hesitation.

However, she doesn't have that Talisman now that she's not a hero's attendant anymore.

"Oooh, what a stunning surge of mana."

"So pretty."

The impressions between an official who had undergone basic magic training and a maid who had not seemed to differ even though they were looking at the same thing.

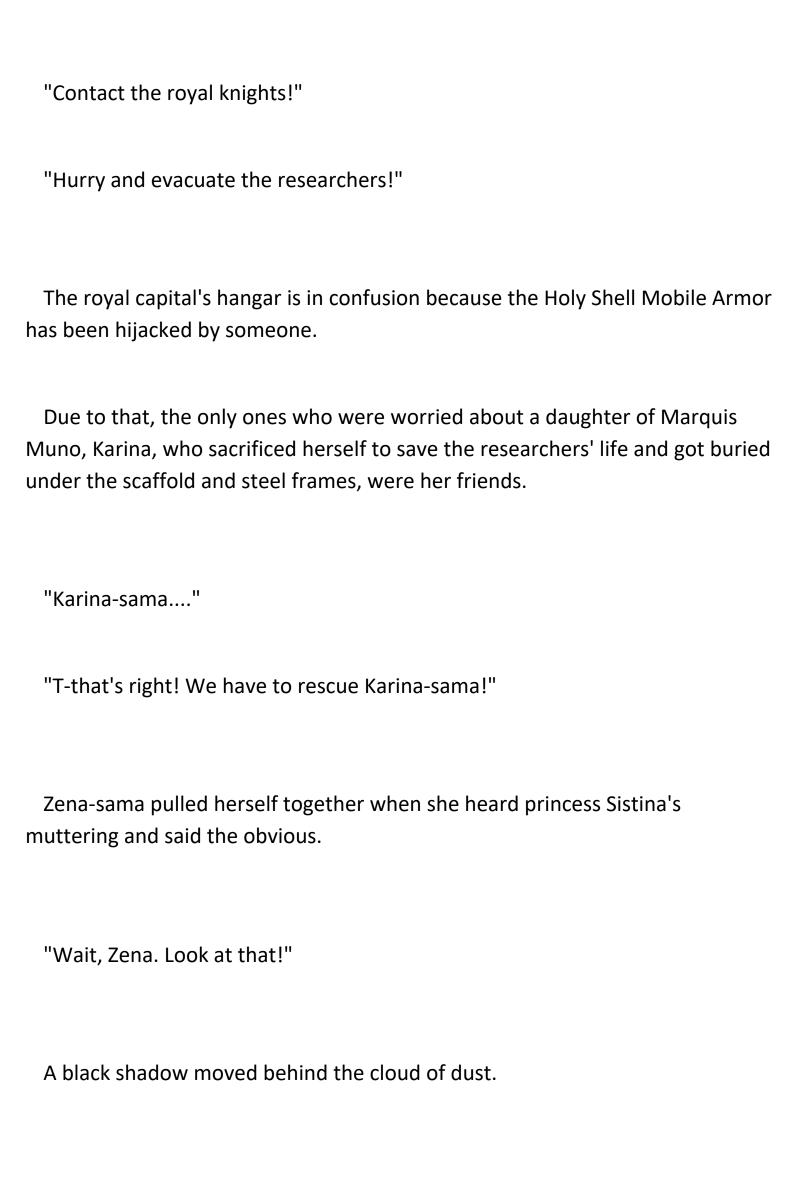
Scenes of Wyvern Riders and Magic Artillery unit on the ground attacking the large warship are unfolding before Lady Ringrande's eyes, but the magic barrier protecting the ship is massive, and none of their attacks seems to be effective.

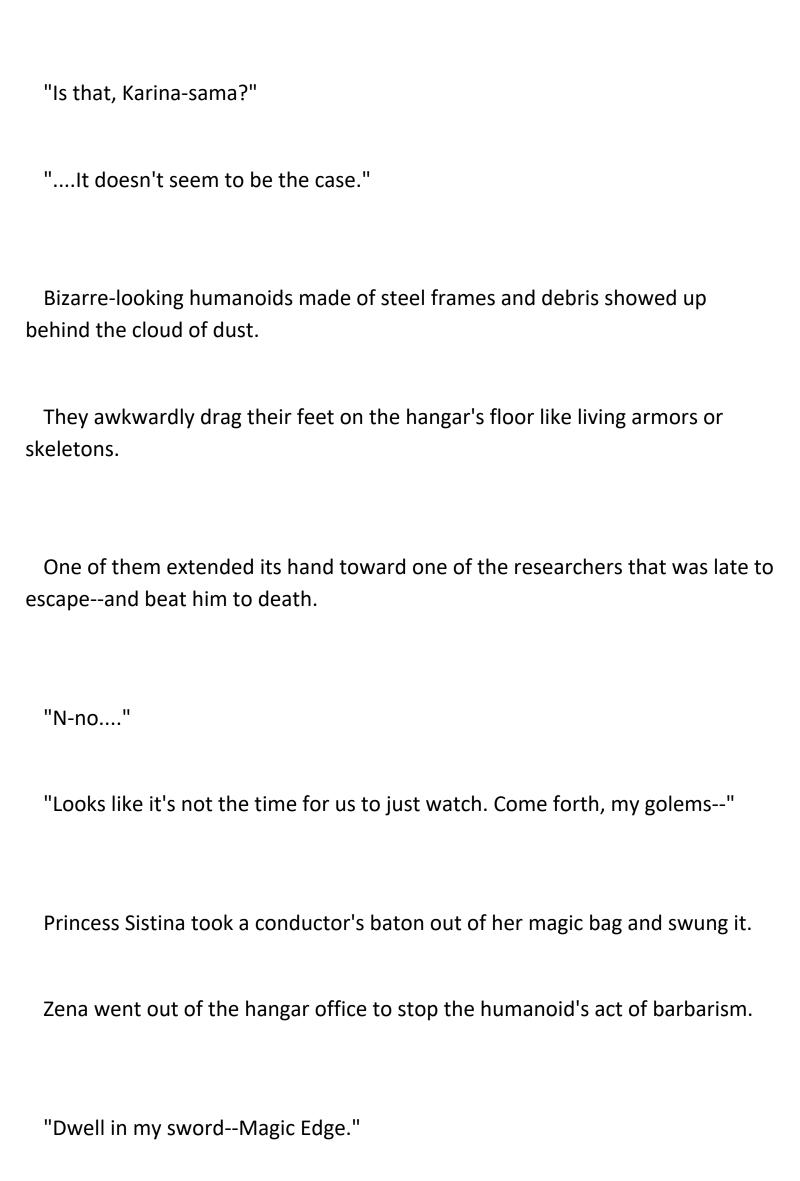
The civil official who saw that had a cramp on his face.

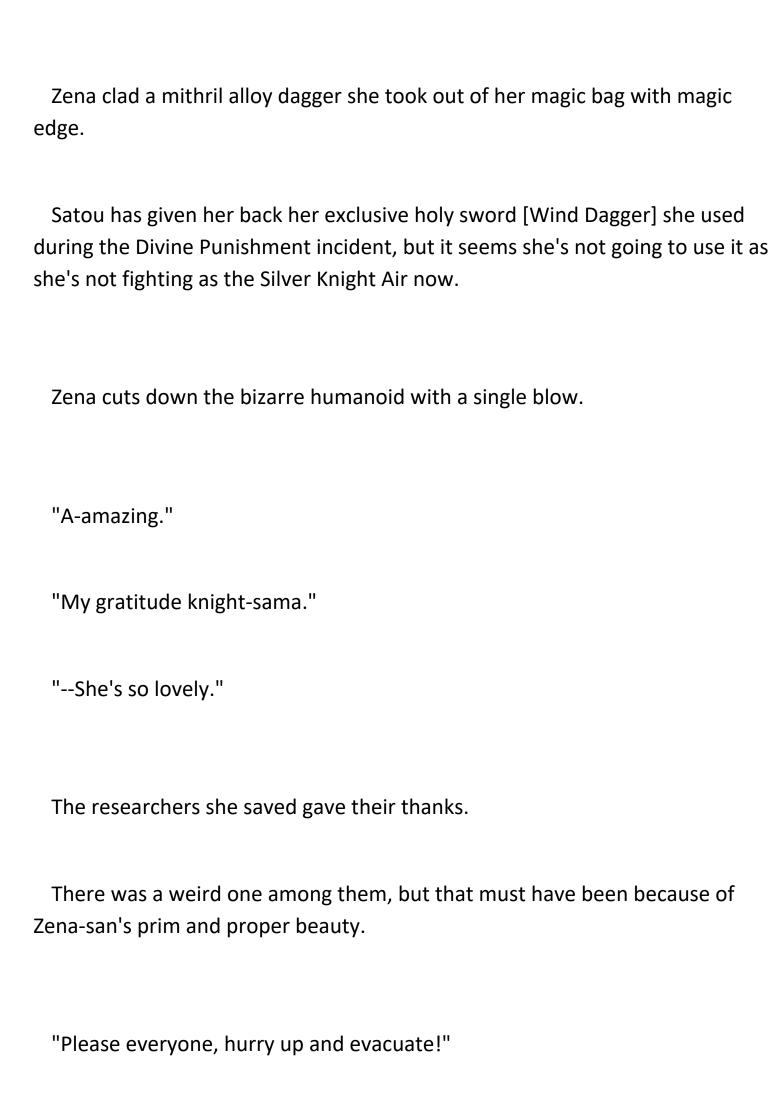
If she got in the way of Lady Ringrande's advanced level magic spell chanting after having her magic boosted this much, the huge torrent of mana that loses their target will obviously attack them instead.

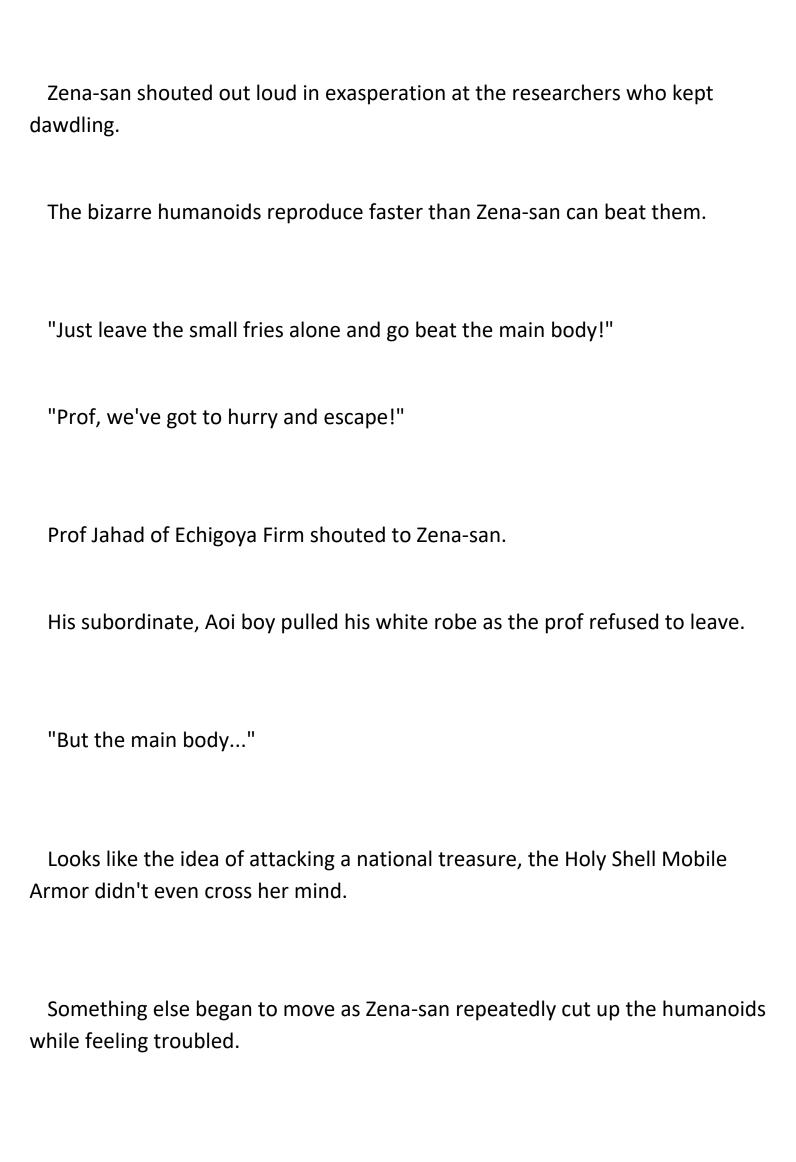
A slim white hand extends toward Lady Ringrande's hand that holds a long wand--.



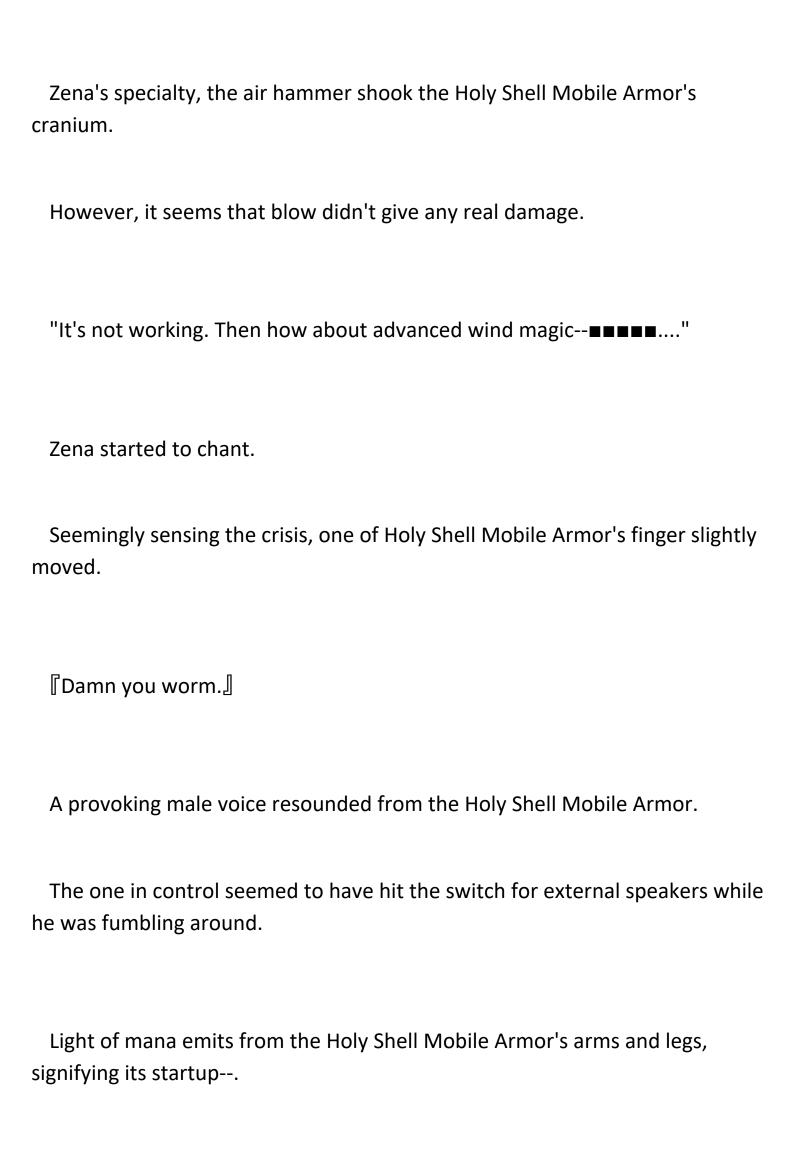




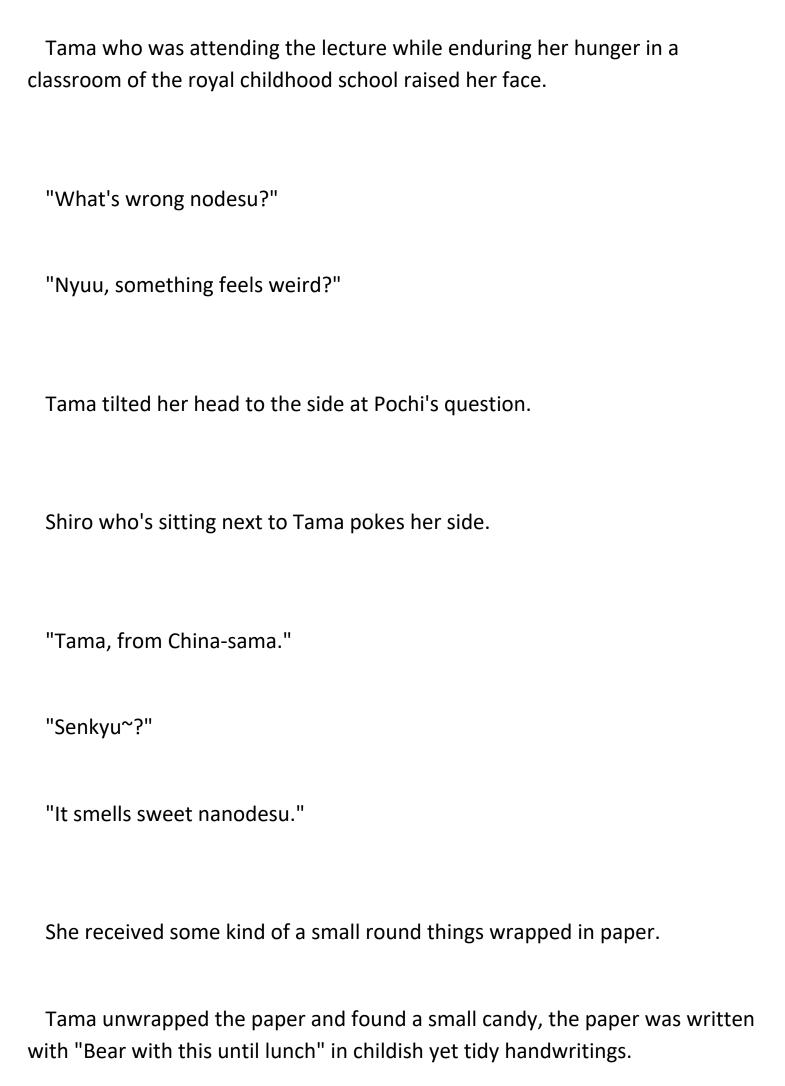




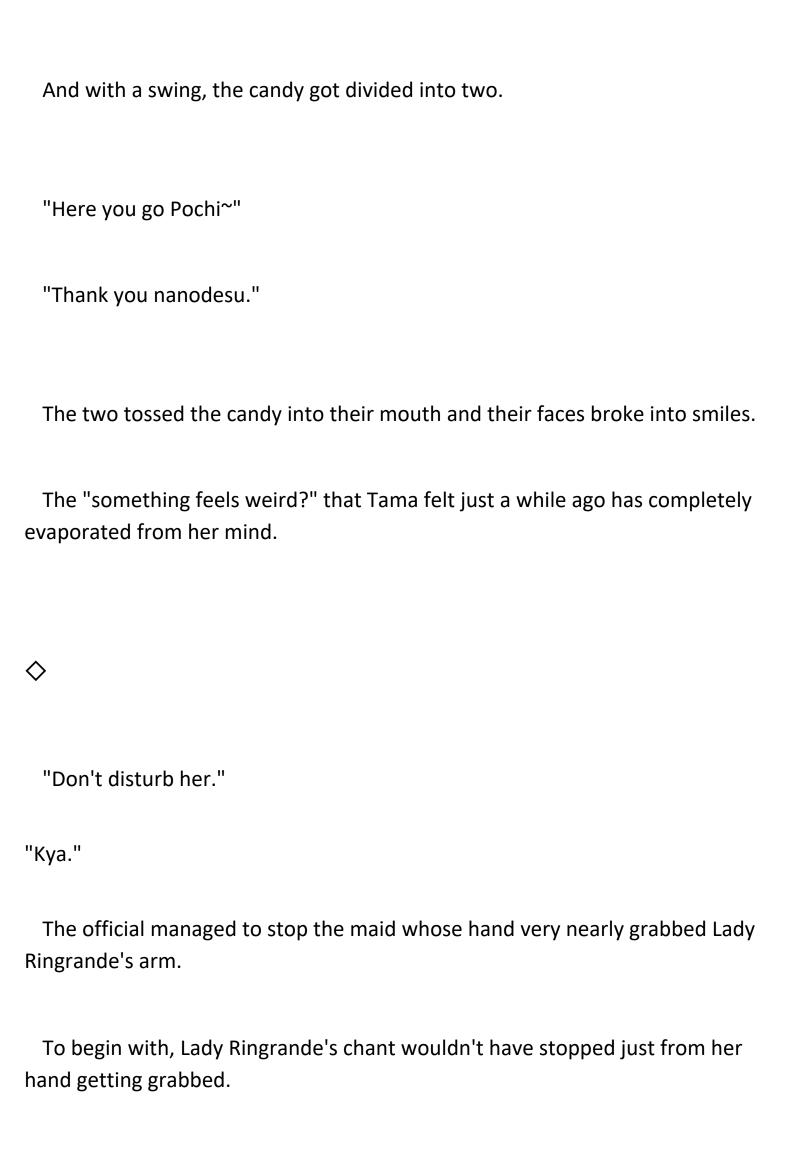
"Mu, is it a new one?"
Prof Jahad muttered when he saw granite knights materializing from the hangar's ground one after another.
"Zena! Leave the small fries to the golems and aim for the main body!"
"Then, these are your highness's?"
Zena grasped the situation the moment she saw Princess Sistina shouting from the office's door.
Zena left the fighting to princess Sistina's golem army and flew in the air with chanted flight magic.
The Holy Shell Mobile Armor's central part and eyes have only been flashing, it hasn't moved at all from where it was.
This someone who has stolen and boarded the Holy Shell Mobile Armor probably doesn't understand how to pilot it.
" ■■ Air Hammer."

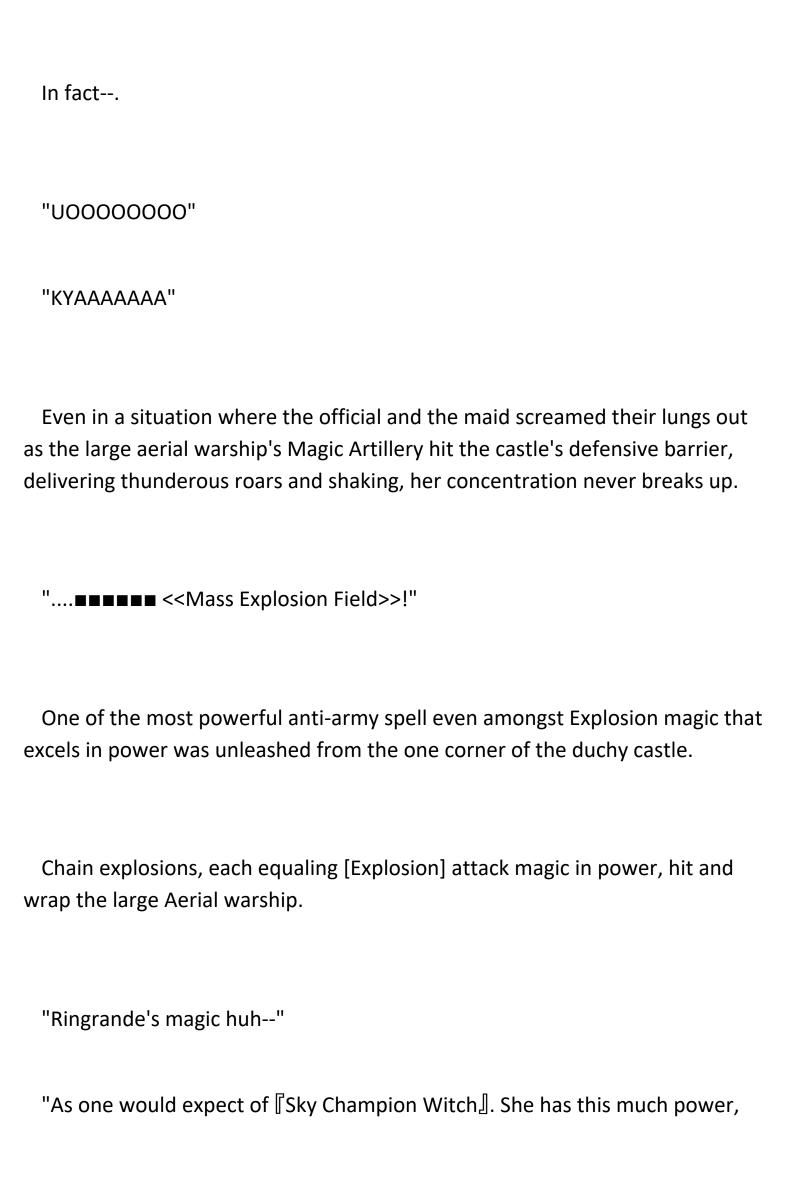


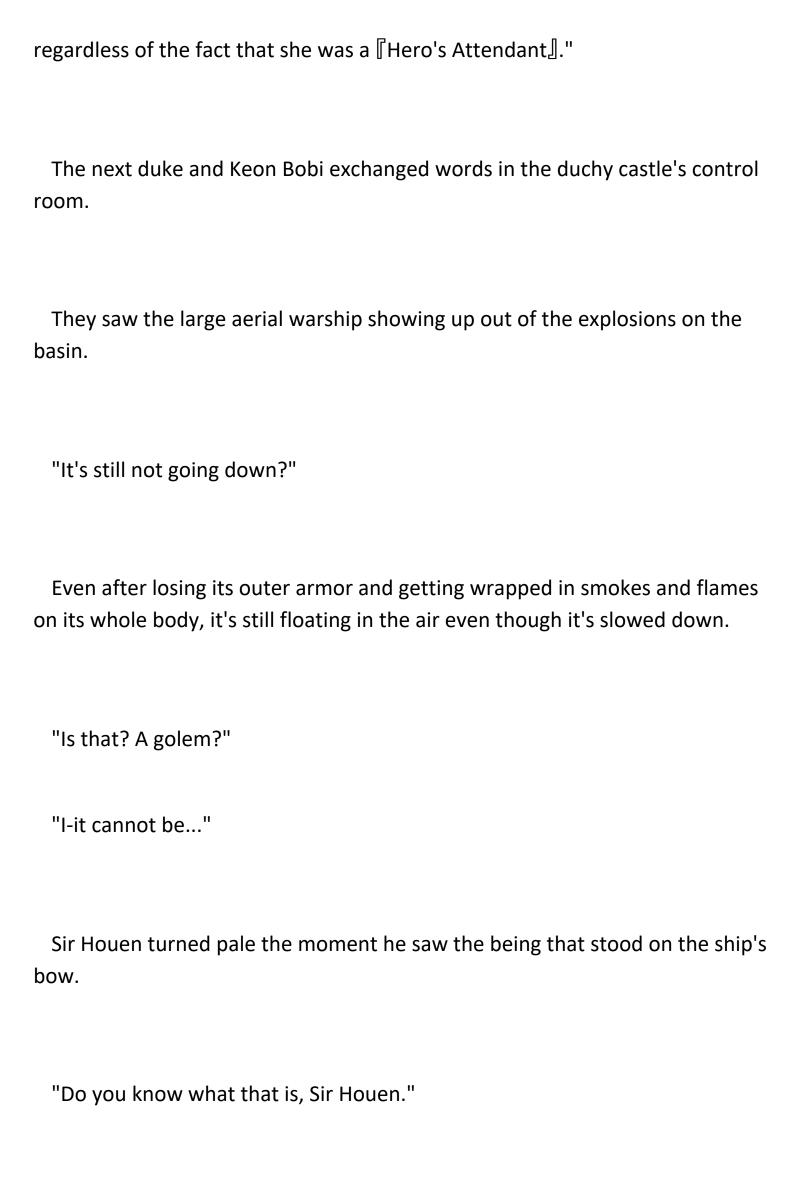
"Dosseiii, desuwa!"
Wreckages of scaffold and steel frames that were on the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's feet got blown away with a spirited yell.
"Oh my, Karina-sama."
Princess Sistina who saw the scene from the office room muttered like she had completely forgotten about her.
Her sole saving grace is probably Zena-san who had a relieved look in the air.
[Uwoo]
The pilot got surprised by the flying debris on its feet and took a step forward
A shadow falls on top of Karina who has both her arms up in the air.
"Nyu?"



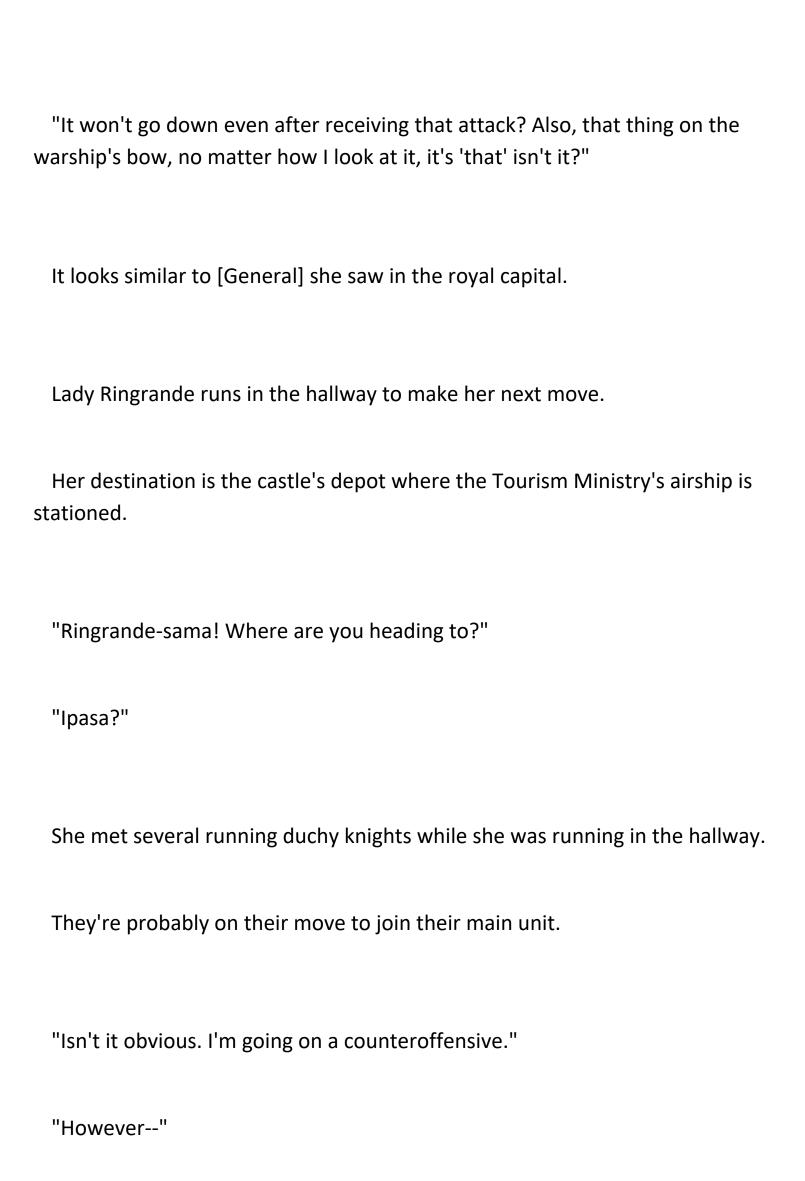




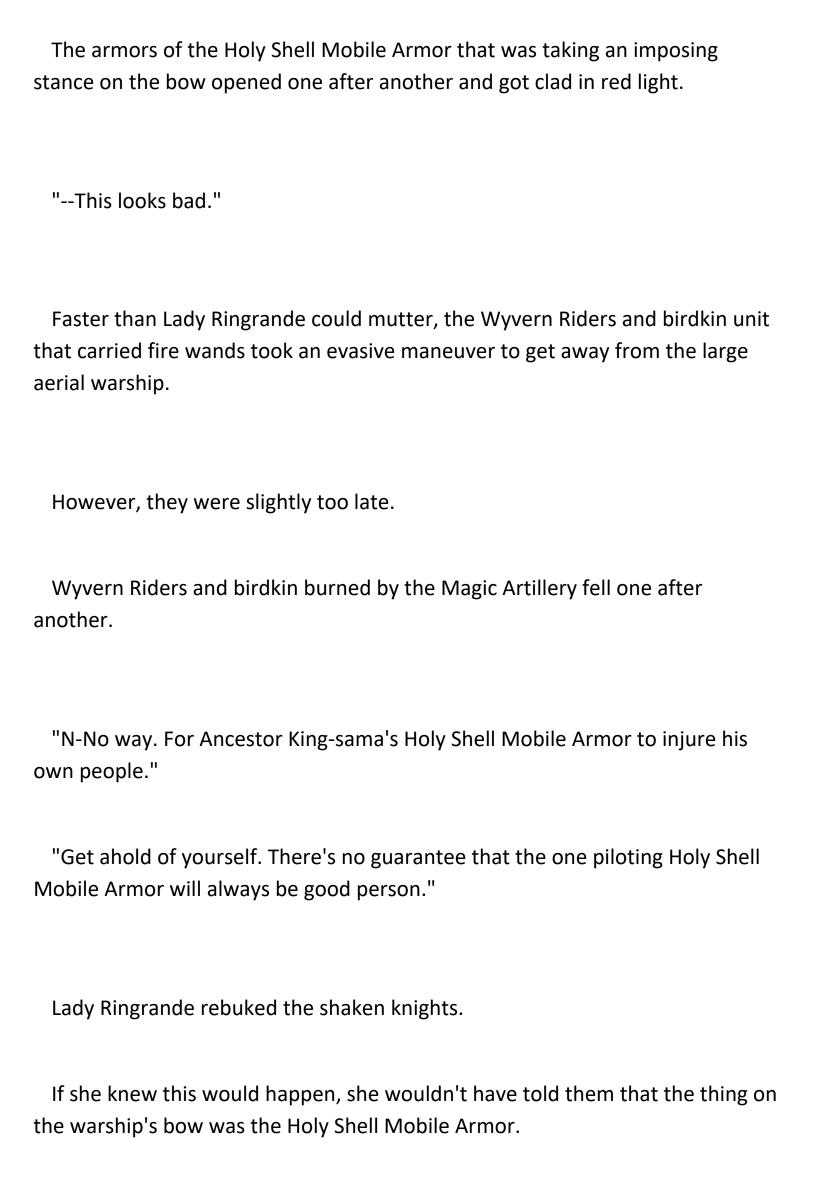


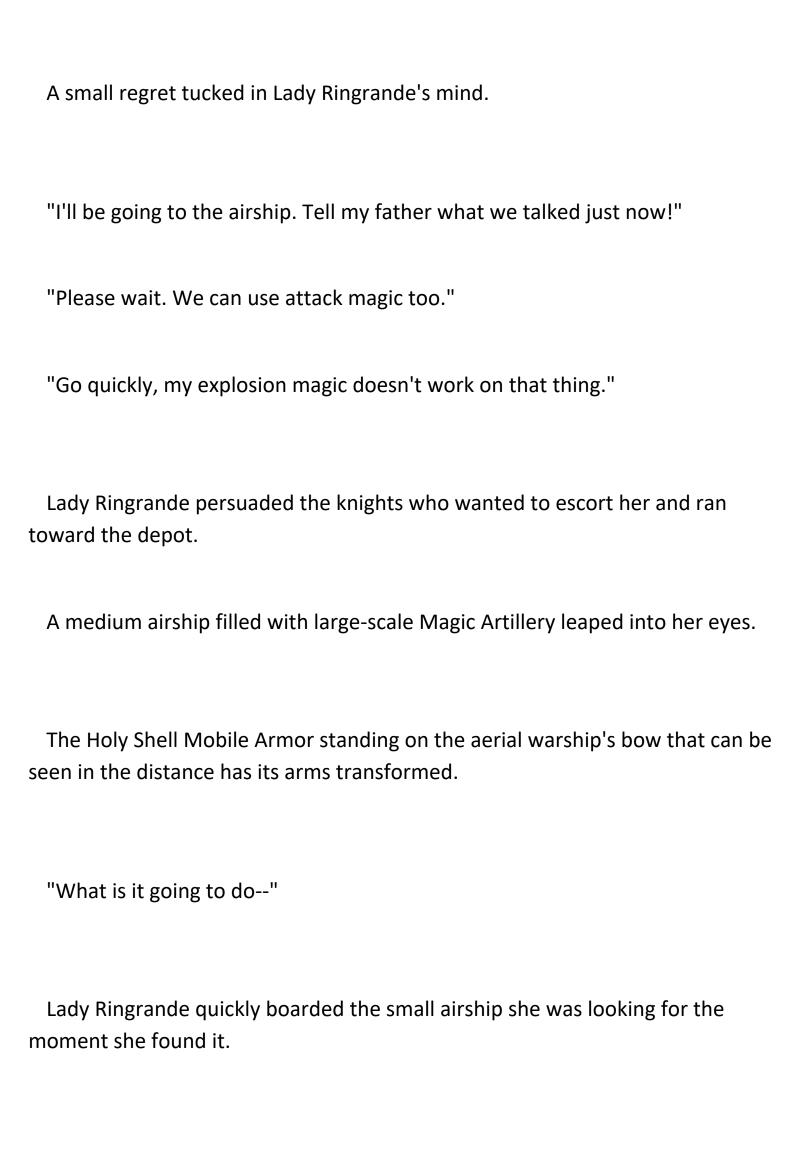


"T-that's the Mobile Armor The Holy Shell Mobile Armor from ancestor king Yamato-sama's legend, there is no doubt about it."
Sir Houen replied the next duke.
"That can't be true. The Holy Shell Mobile Armor should be in the Royal Capital now."
After all, that's the whole reason why their fathers have all gone to the royal capital.
"No, it's the very image of Holy Shell Mobile Armor depicted in the portrait we have in our house."
If the ancestor king YamatoDuchess Mitsukuni were here, she probably would say this.
That's [Dynast]

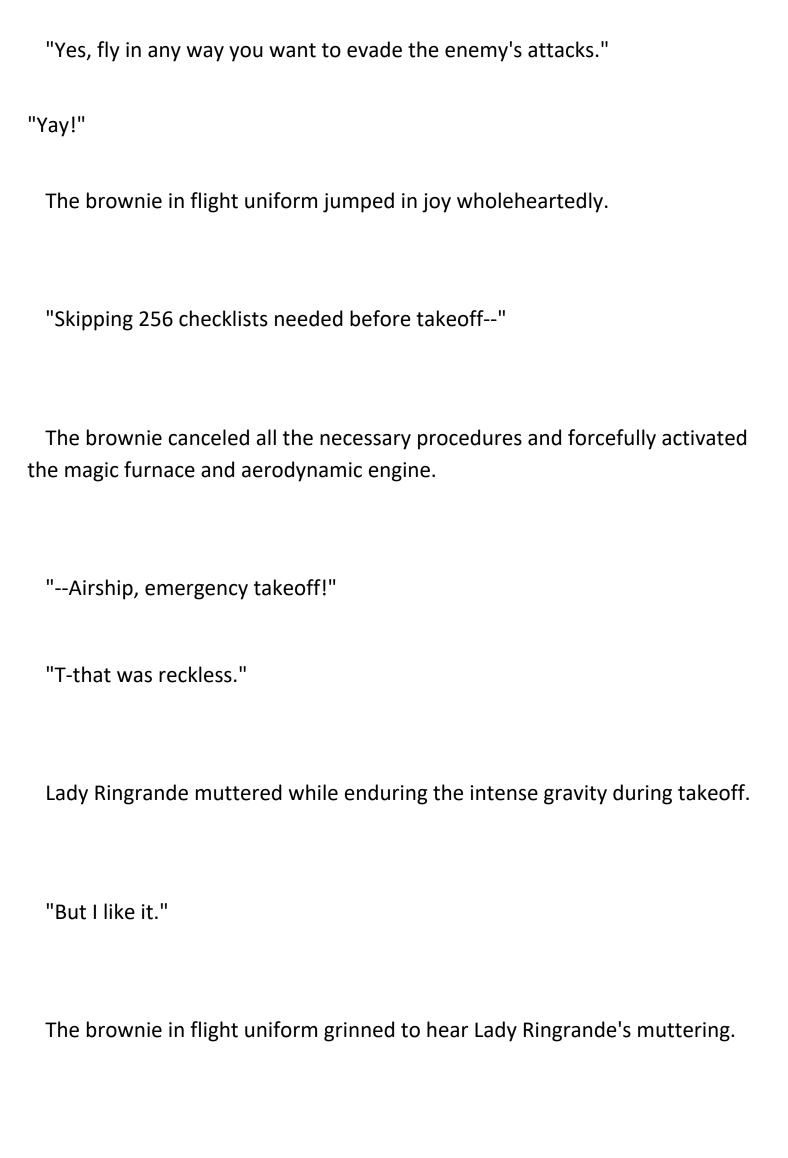


"If ranged attacks don't work, that means I just need to get close."
Ipasa was going to say that her attack wouldn't reach the enemy in the air, but Lady Ringrande interrupted.
She told them her destination and that the being standing on the enemy warship's bow was the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.
"That thing is?"
"The Holy Shell Mobile Armor told in the legend"
"Why is a ship that carries the Holy Shell Mobile Armor attacking the duchy capital?"
"I don't know."
Lady Ringrande curtly brushed off the knights' questions that started from Sir Ipas.
Right at that time, the large aerial warship that could be seen from the hallway showed a new movement.





"Ringrande-sama? The outside seems to be quite noisy."
Unaffected by the thunderous roars and shaking, the brownie girl in flight uniform kept eating smooth cold gelatin.
By the way, it's brown sugar syrup tasted.
"As expected of Satou's subordinate. Lend me the airship."
"Yes, I don't mind, but what are we going to do?"
The brownie in flight uniform tilted her head to reply the flustered sounding Lady Ringrande.
There's no problem here since her master, Satou, has asked her to comply with Lady Ringrande's request if she wants to embark during their stay here.
However, it seems like she's a bit curios about the purpose.
"Obviously. We're going to beat the enemy down."
"Are we allowed to fly acrobatically?"



A fight between airships has already begun before her eyes.

The medium airship in the sky above the castle shot out all of its large-scale Magic Artillery, but all of it was blocked by a defensive barrier that expanded in front of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

This time, a huge fireball was shot out of both arms of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

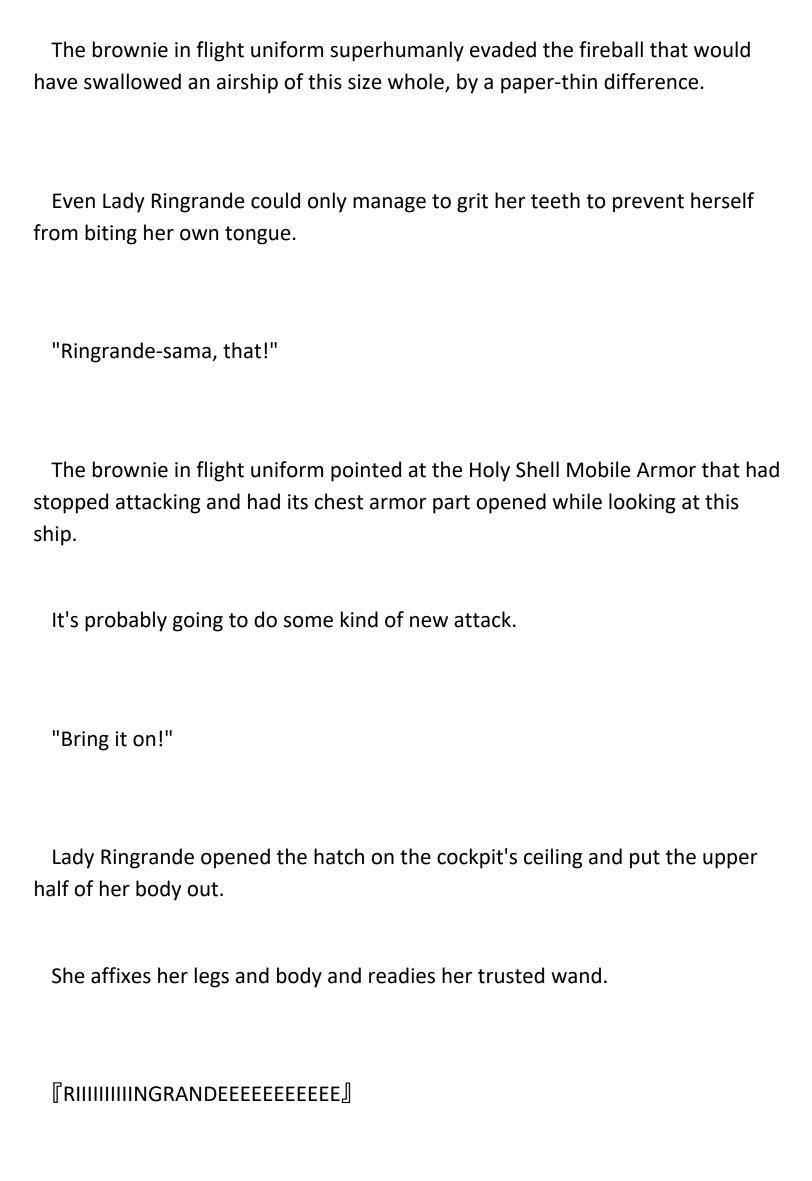
The medium airship tried to evade while putting up a defensive barrier.

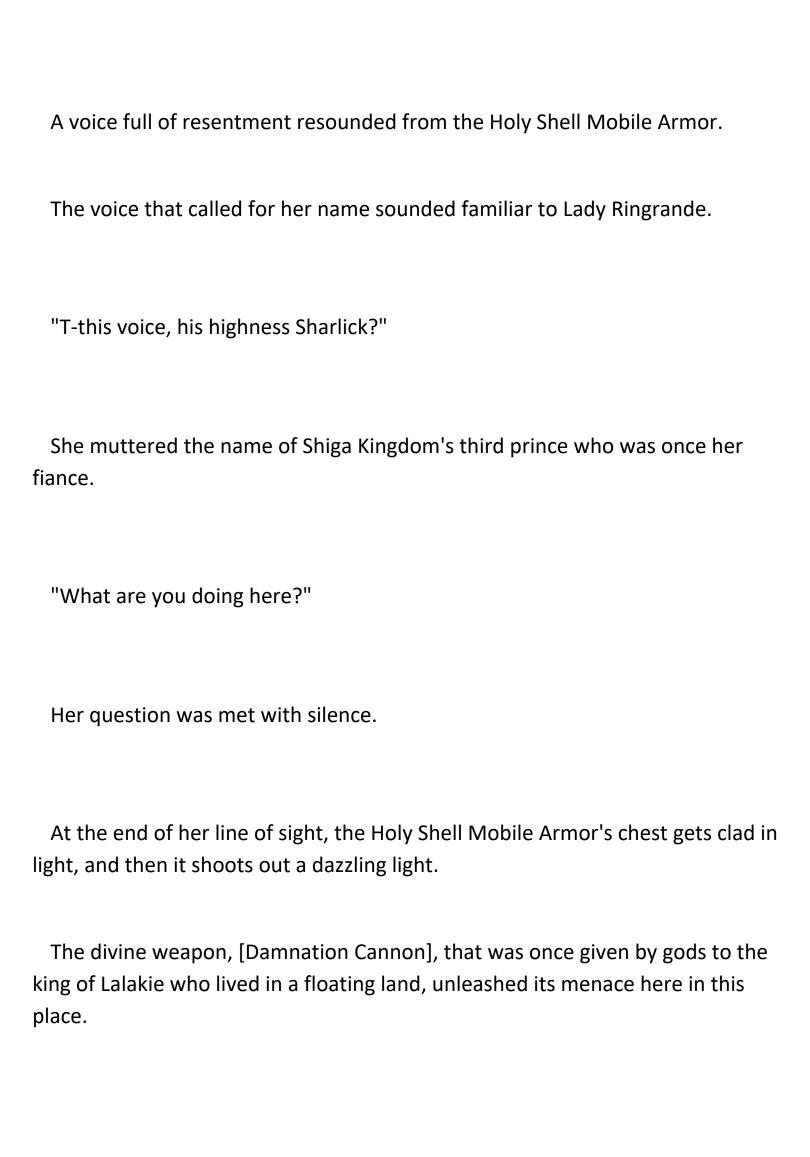
The fireball soared while burning the air and demolished the barrier protecting the medium airship in one blow.

"What an unbelievable firepower. That doesn't seem to be an ordinary largescale Magic Artillery."

Her mouth muttered, 'no doubt about it, that's the ancient magic kingdom's [Magic Artillery]'.

The huge fireball that destroyed the medium airship was flying toward this ship too.







"--This is bad."

Arisa muttered with a pale face as she was hit by the waterfall in the Solitary Island Palace.

"I've got to hurry--"

The figure of a purple haired little girl was nowhere to be found the moment the words spoken out of the trembling lips got drown out by the waterfall sound.

16-12. A Conversation with God Tenion

Satou's here. I can never get used to interviews even though I went through them many times during high school, college and job-hunting. Can't help but feeling nervous in front of big shots.



"Earl-sama, please change into this ceremonial clothing."

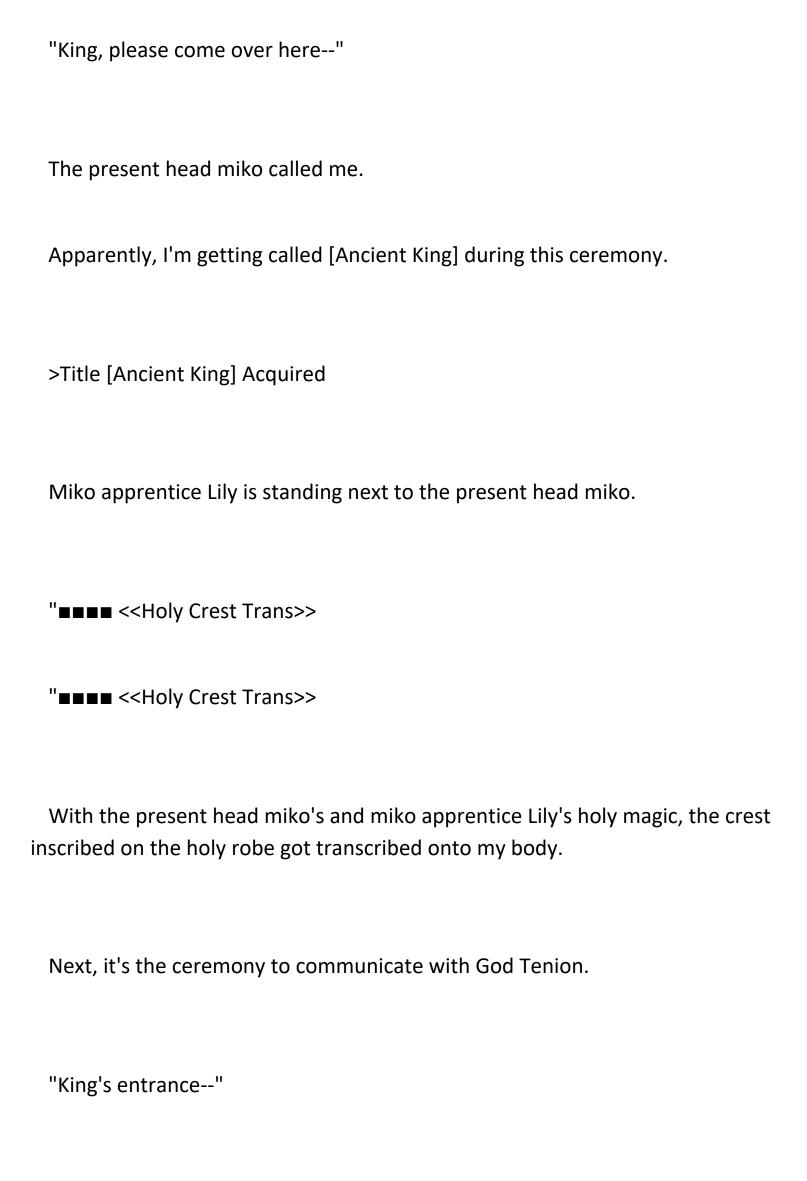
"Yeah, I got it."

I change into the ceremonial white robe.

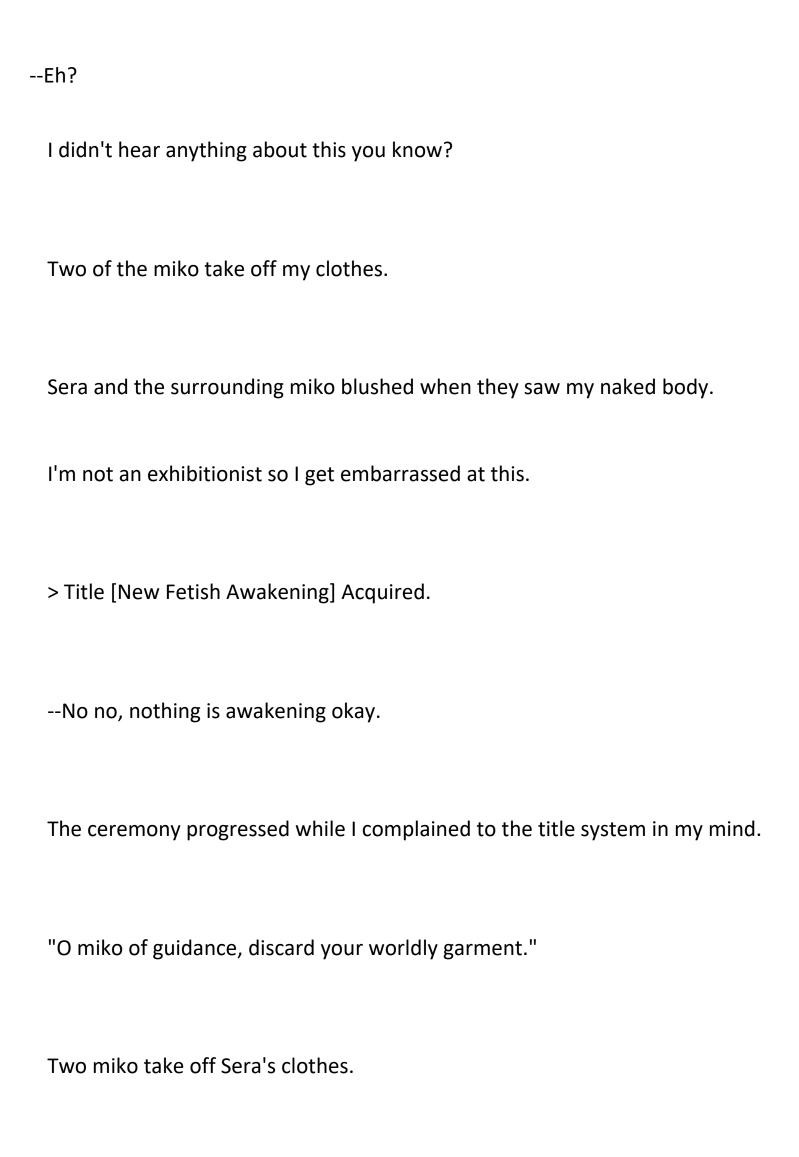
It's very thin and they provide no underwear.

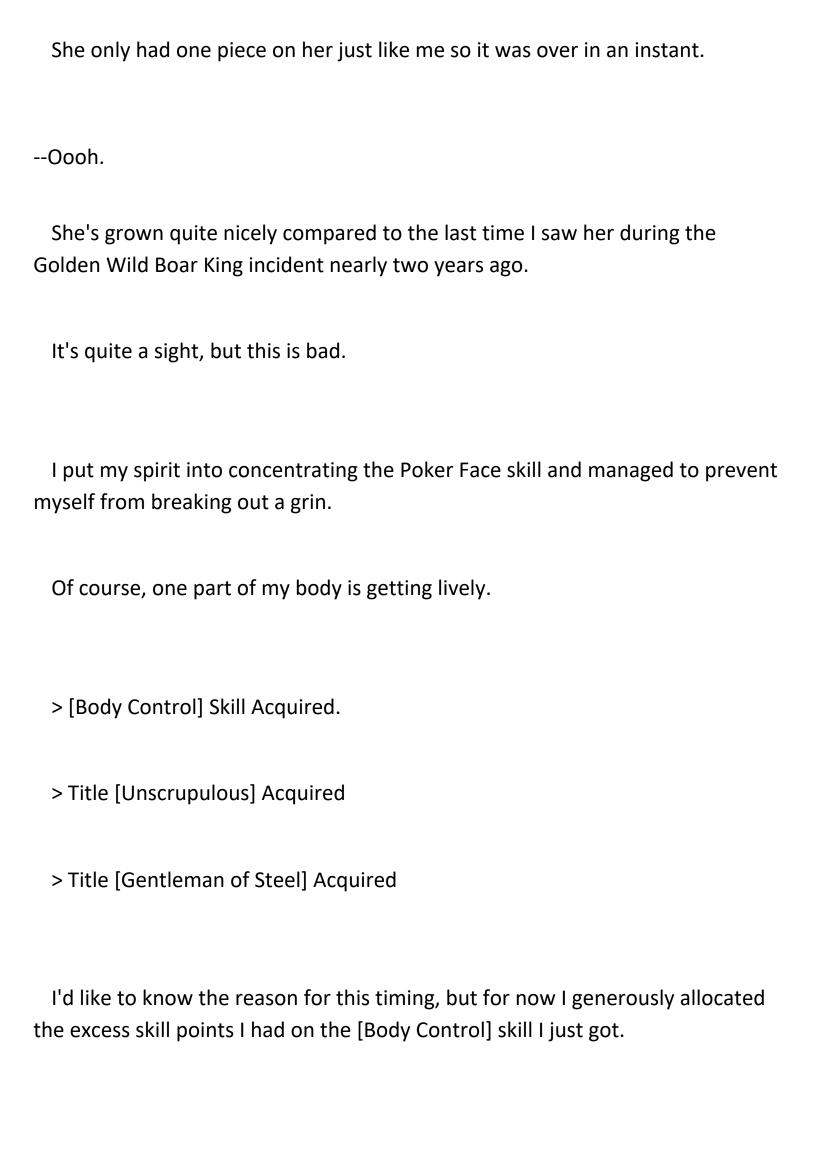
Initially, I'm doing the ceremony in a different room from Sera and then I get to put a crown-like metalwork on in the end.

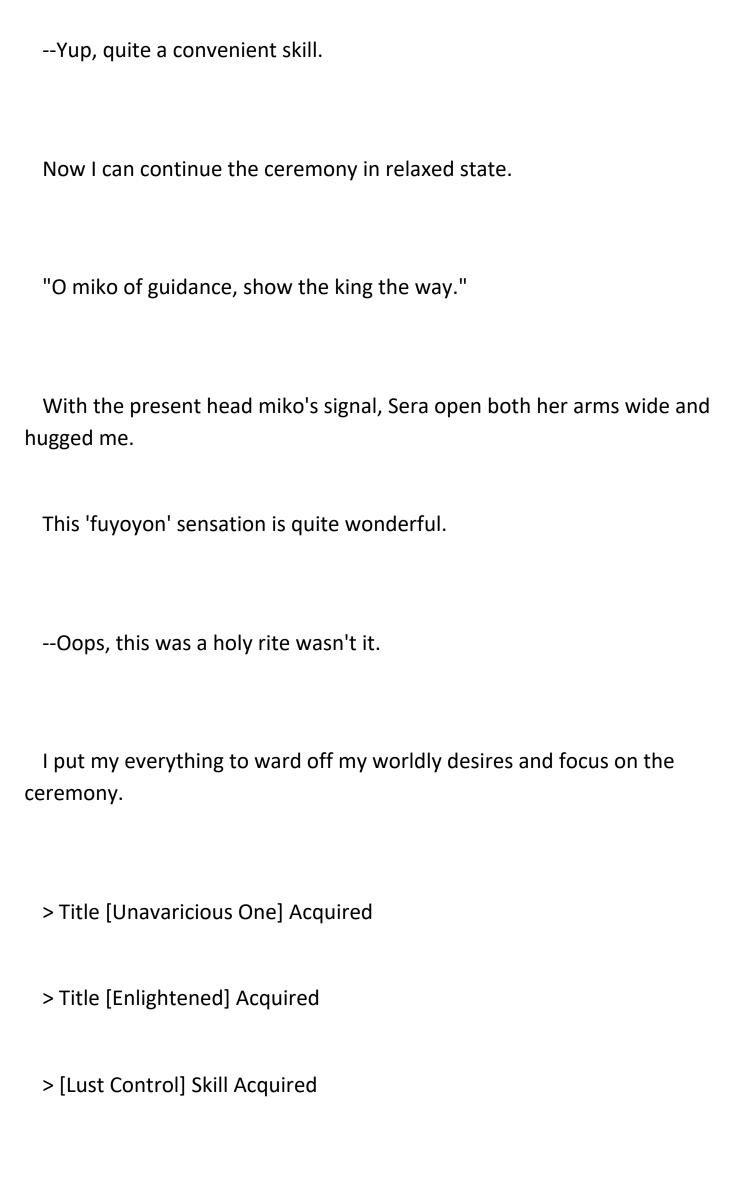
Maybe it was due to the almost see-through garment I wore, during the ceremony, the female priestesses' eyes were staring really hard at me, it was a bit embarrassing.

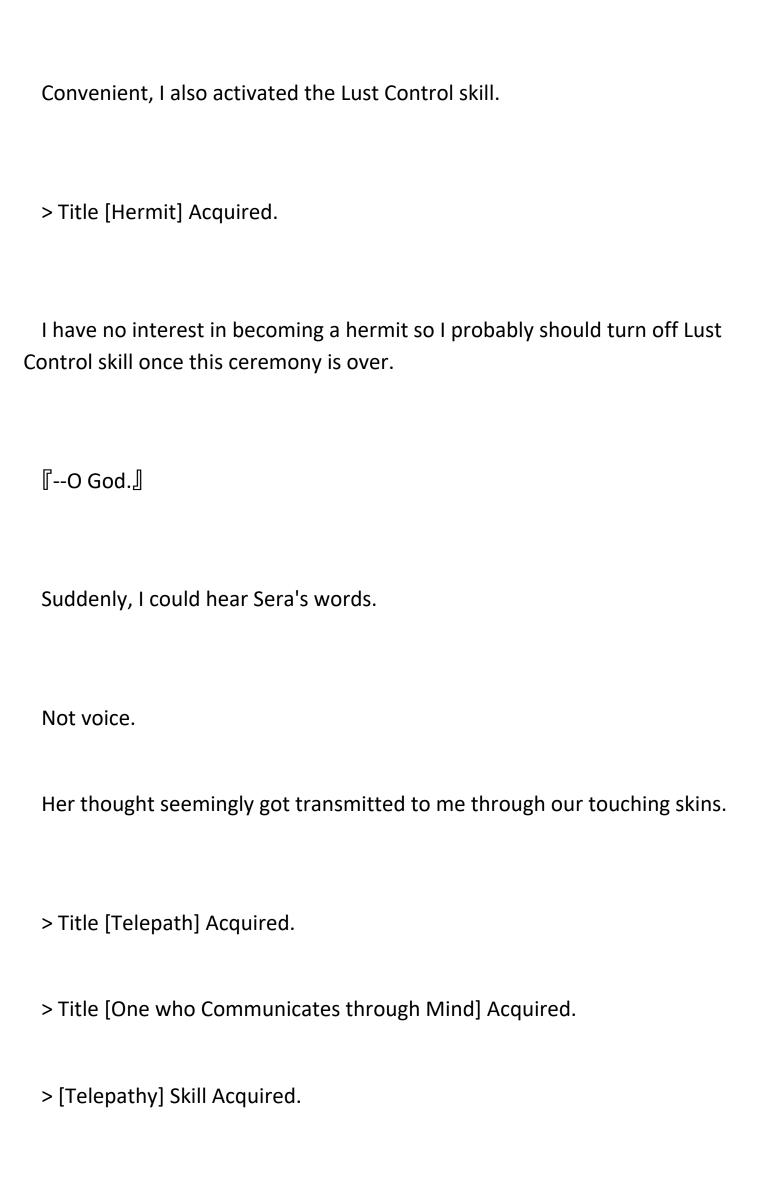


I stepped my foot into the holy rite room with an attire that resembled the ancient king.
Many miko who have undergone the purification rite are standing in lines inside the room.
Looks like the present head miko is leading the ceremony.
"O king, stand before miko."
Sera was waiting for me in mystical looking miko clothes at the center of the sanctuary.
I smiled at her when our eyes met since she seemed tense.
I feel that she's loosened herself a little.
When I've come before Sera, several miko get to our sides.
"O king, discard your worldly garment."



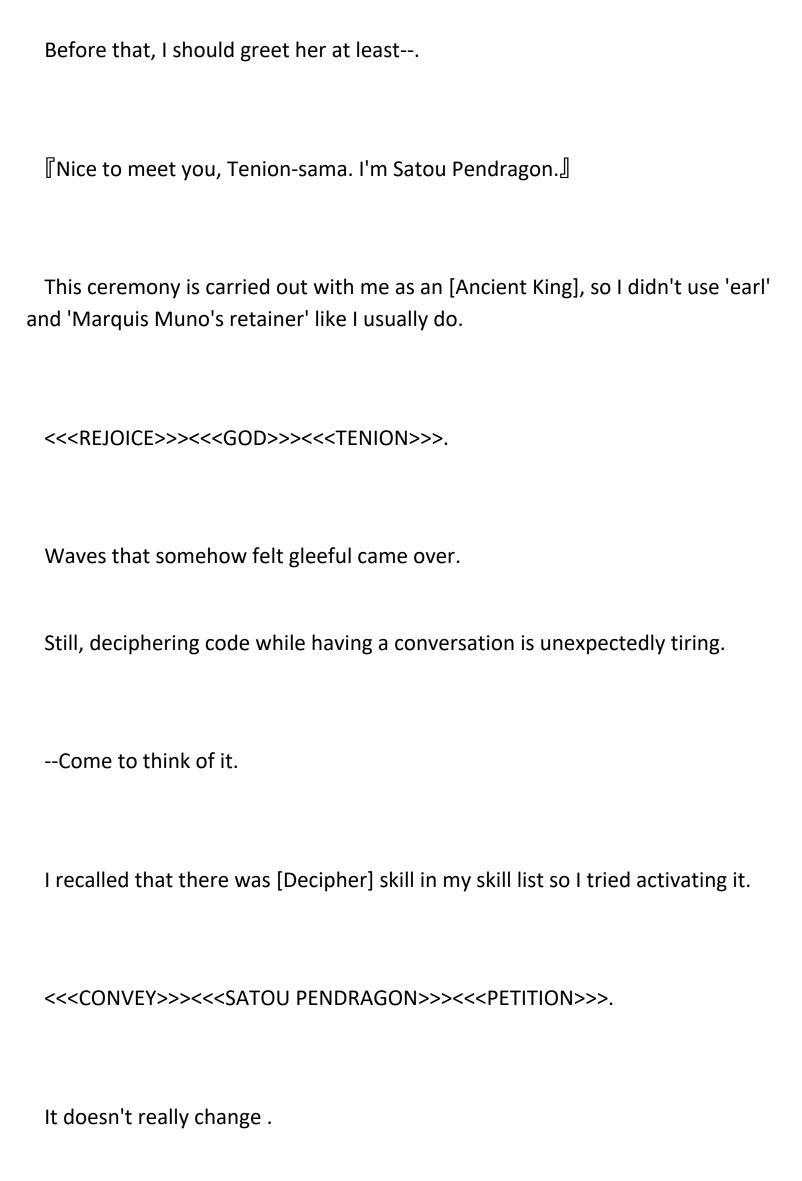






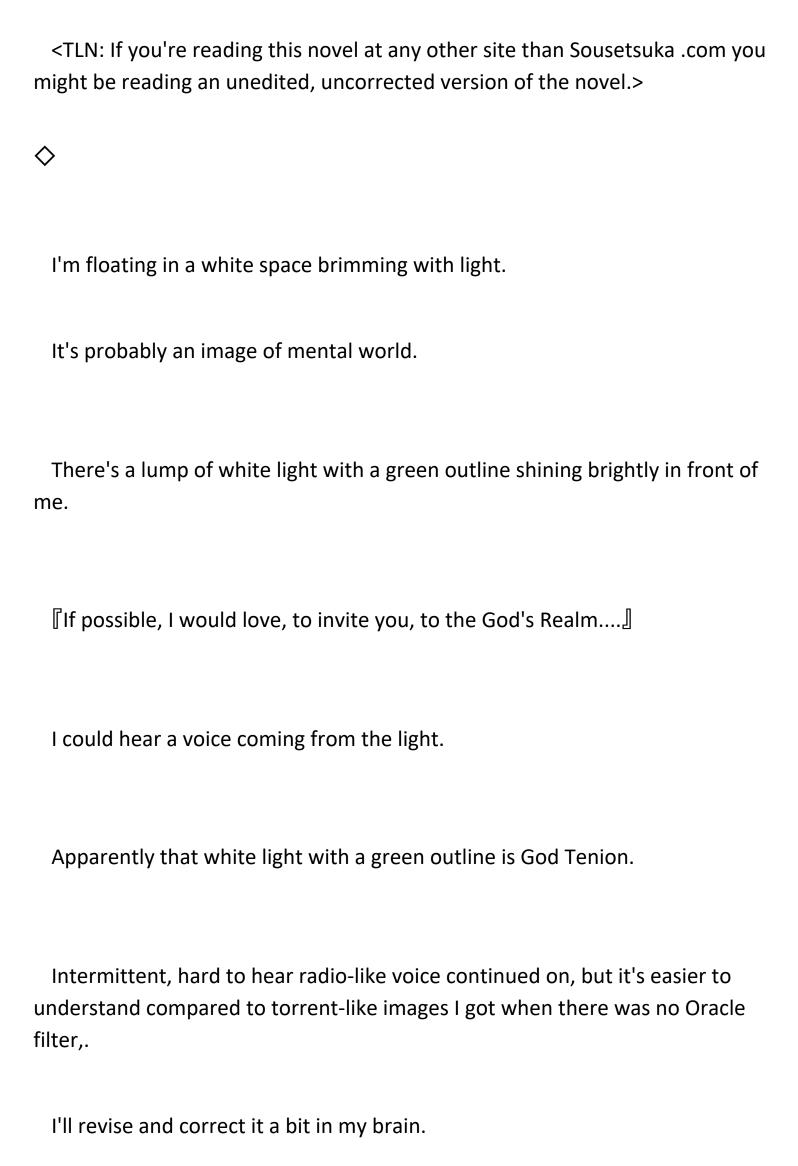
I have used Telepathy myself when Arisa became my familiar, or is that a different thing.
Oops, the ceremony might fail if I have unnecessary thoughts.
I turned off all the [AR] readings on my Menu to focus on the ceremony.
Lady Ringrande is in the Duchy Capital, while Hikaru and Liza are in the Royal Capital, they should be able to do something even in an emergency.
Besides, Arisa is with them too, familiar communication should be possible no matter what the situation is.
Sera looks up to the sky in my arms.
『O Great God who watches over us.』
A serene light falls down from the sky as if answering Sera's call.
It seems to contain some kind of power, it feels tingly when it touches my



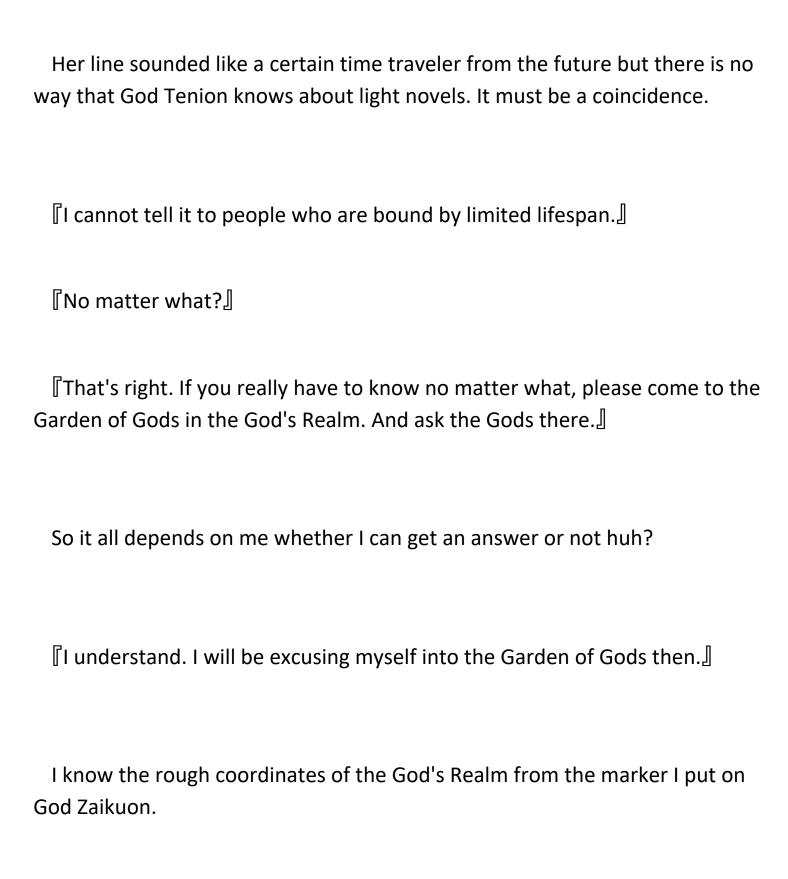




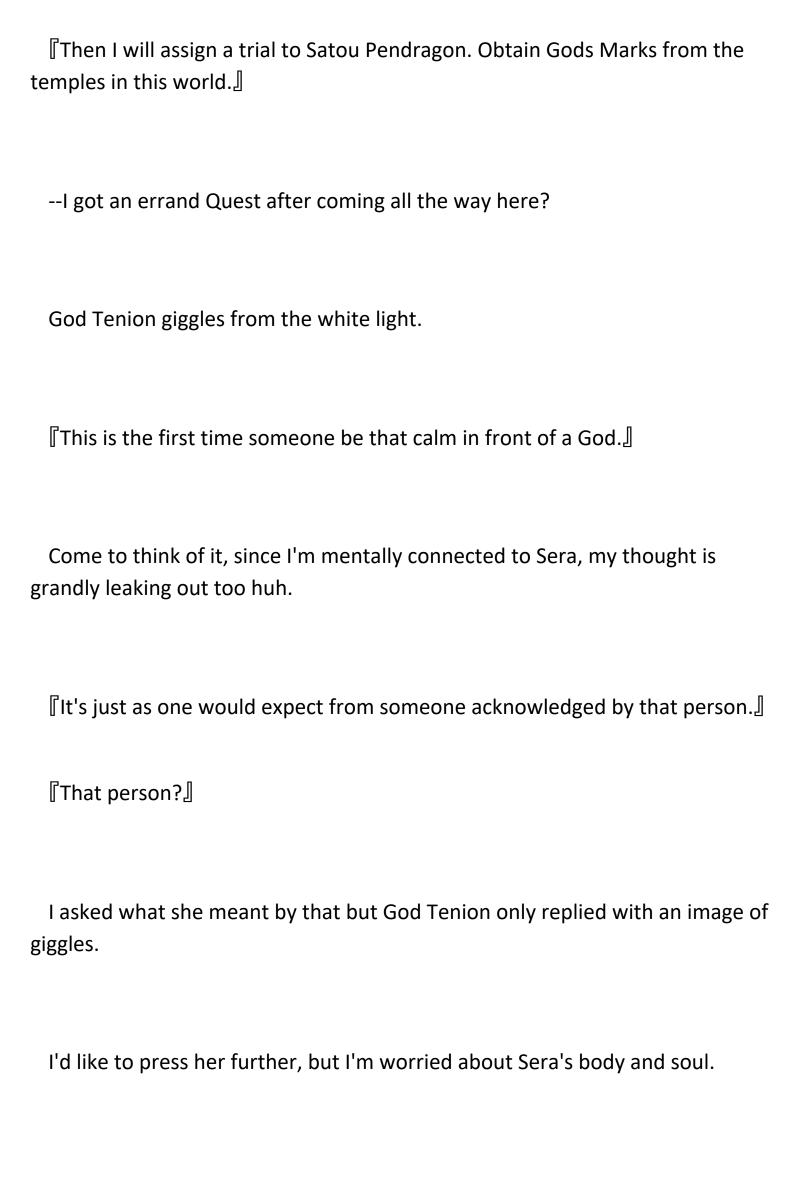
Indeed, it must be hard when even holding a conversation is this difficult. Sera and other miko who have to decipher what they heard in the oracle and convey it to the statesmen sure have it hard. --Wait a minute. Sera and the others never mentioned that to me. They told me about their experiences with oracles several times before, and they seemed like the were having a normal conversation. I use mind magic and directly access Sera's mind. If I did it normally, Sera's mind would break and she'd get crippled, but instead of invading her, I'm establishing a two-way mental bridge to try to make her Oracle skill into a sort of filter. My view is dyed white the moment I'm connected with Sera.

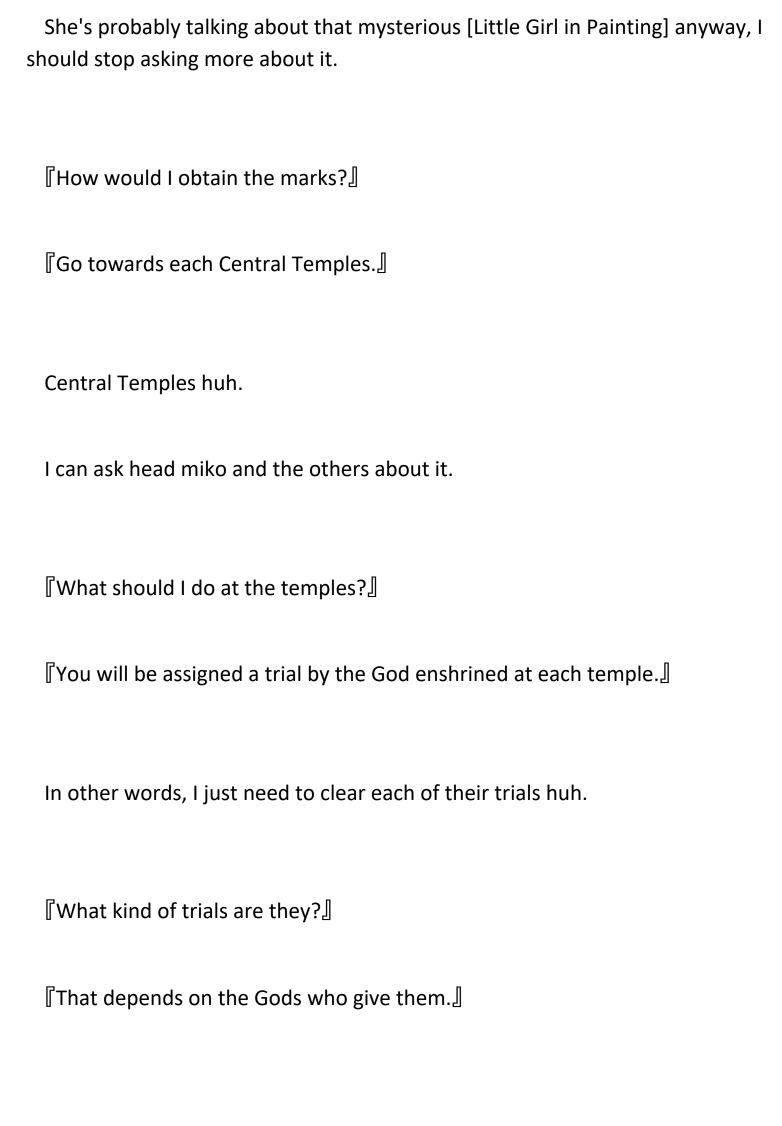


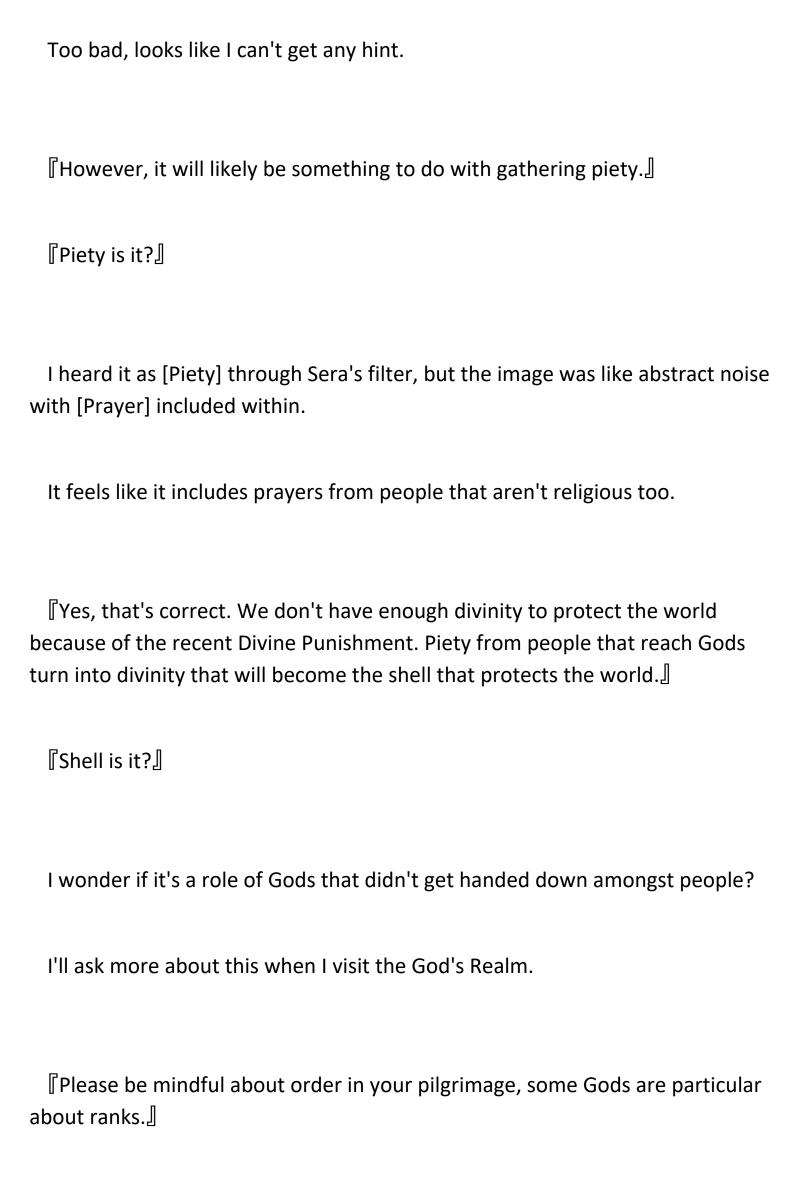
	If that is possible, I would love to visit there myself.
	[My? I can understand your words all of a sudden.]
	An image of lady laughing pleasantly was transmitted from the light.
	Do I still need to go to the God's Realm if we can communicate this well?
	[Would you mind if we get back on topic?]
	[No, I don't mind. But let's make it brief. Before my dear miko's soul breaks.]
h	I've only noticed after God Tenion pointed it out, true, the burden must be nigh on Sera.
	Let's get to the point as quickly as possible.
þ	I'd like to know the reason and the extent of science and technology prohibition by gods.
	[That's a classified information.]

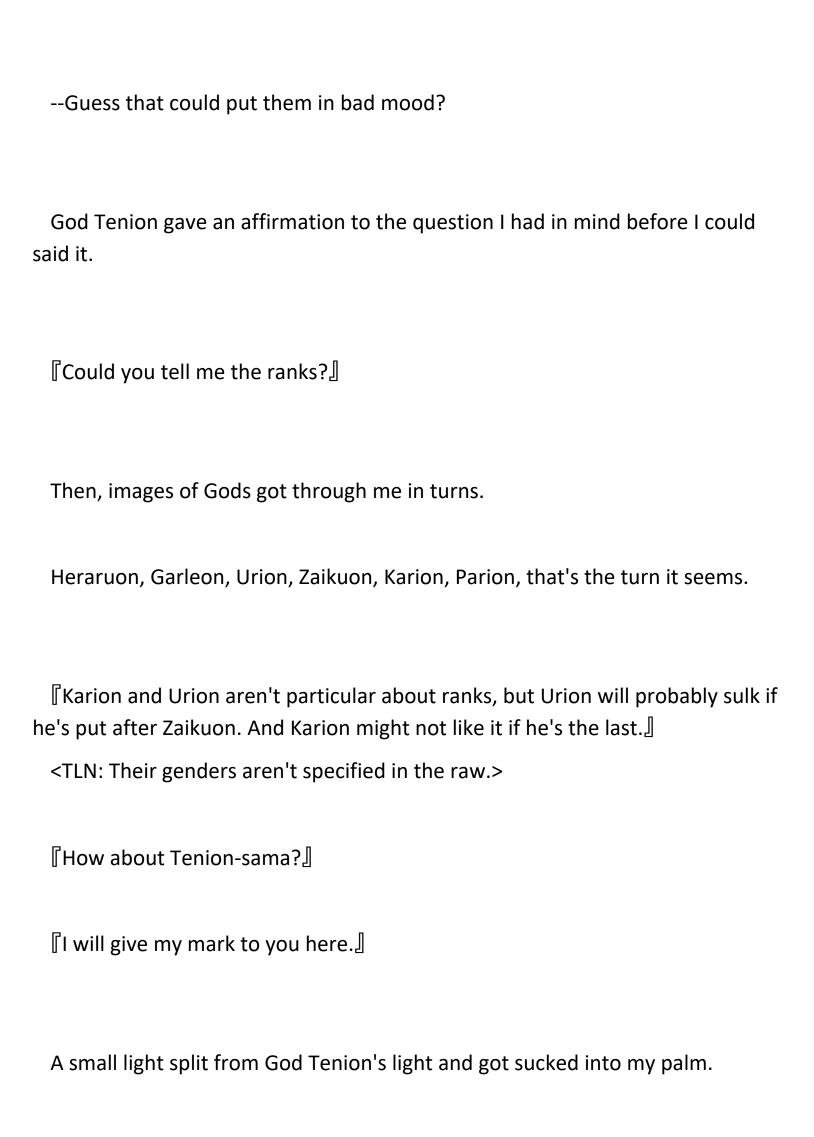


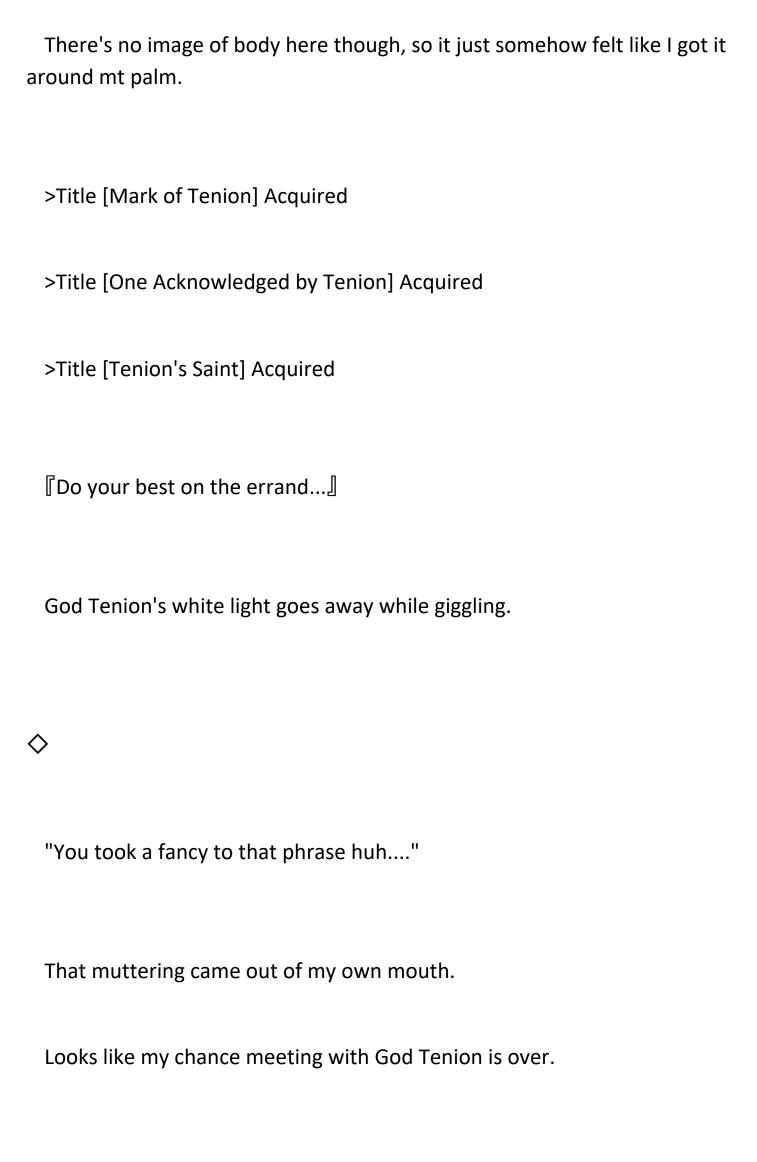
Unit Arrangement can't do it, but but I think it's possible with World Teleportation using the enormous amount of mana obtained by the Void Sky Ether Furnace.













It seems like Lily is still using the room even now.

Even though there's probably no one who would eavesdrop us, I'll use space magic-made isolation barrier for counterintelligence here.

It may not be as strong as Goblin Princess Yuika's Unique Skill, but this barrier is strong enough that we wouldn't notice even if a nuclear bomb were to explode nearby.

"Were you able to speak with God Tenion?"

"Yes, I received a revelation to go on a pilgrimage to Central Temples that enshrine the Gods."

I talk about the Trials of Gods stuff to Lily.

"It's like the ancient hero king that appears in the myth isn't it."

That reminds me, there's a story about a hero that challenged the trial to become a familiar god of God Parion.



Then I heard quake-like vibrations and roaring sounds that sounded like collapsing buildings.
It appears that the Duchy Capital was under attack by someone with a really good timing.
I put the [Menu] skill's display back on.
Now then, it has been awhile, let us begin hero's time.

16-13. End of the Assailants (1)

* From third person point of view

"Is that an airship? But it looks somewhat organic....."

"It's emitting such wicked presence. Do you know what that is Satou-san?"

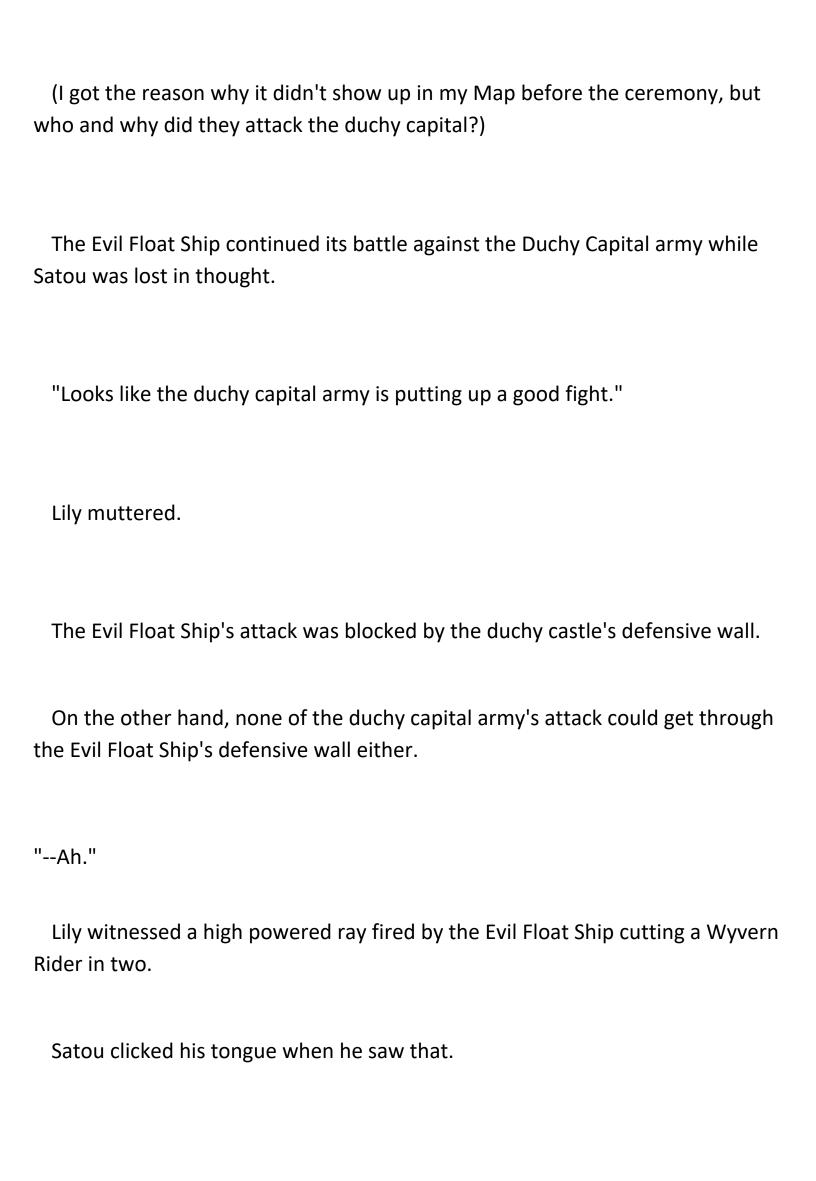
Satou and miko apprentice Lily exchanged words while looking up from the terrace of Tenion temple.

Satou's AR shows it as, [<<Evil Float Ship>>].

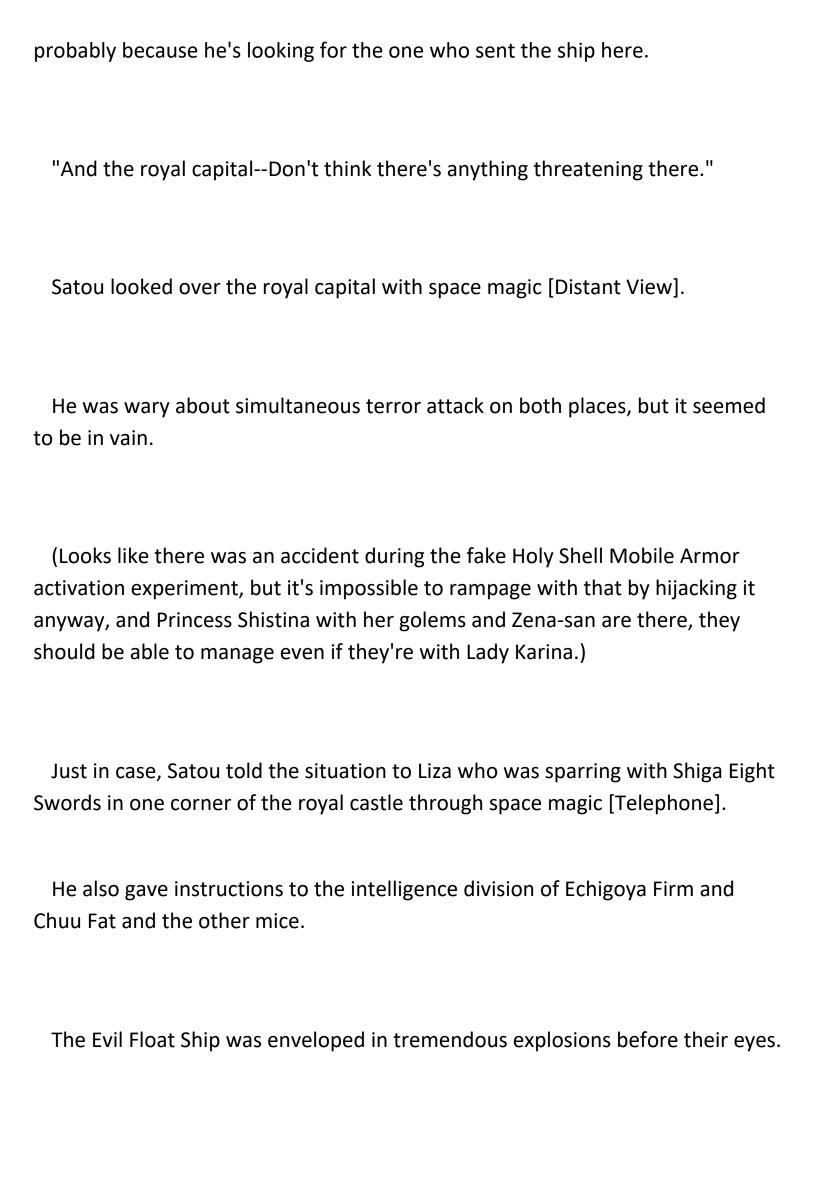
"It seems to be a kind of ghost shop called Evil Float Ship."

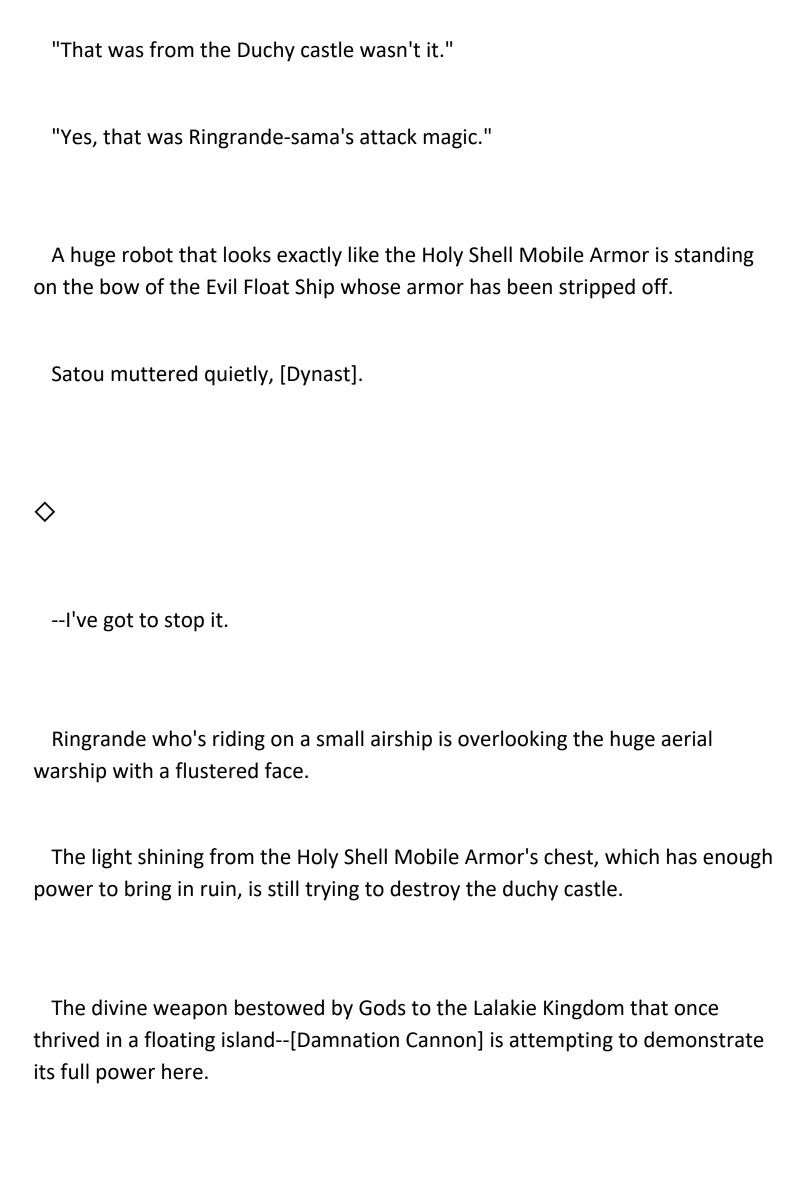
In his mind, Satou recalled the ghost ship he fought in the Lalakie sea during the Divine Punishment.

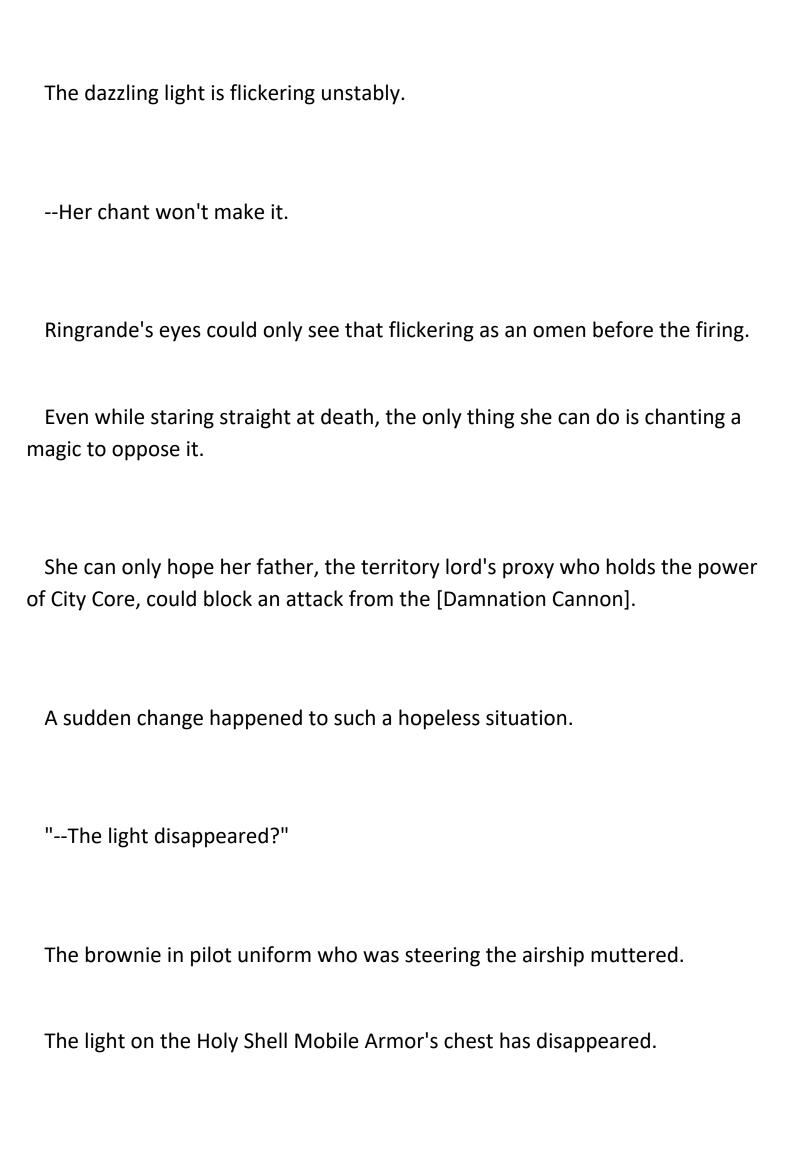
Ghost ships have a peculiar type of sub-dimensional travel function called [Underworld Crossing], it probably made use of that to appear in the duchy capital.

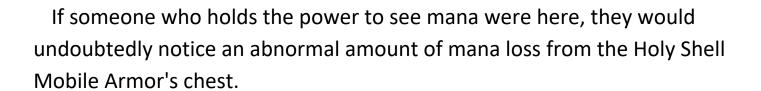












It's as if someone drained its mana.

"....■ <<Divine Explosion>>!"

Ringrande's advanced explosion magic pulverized the rear engine of the Evil Float Ship.

Several black shadows jumped off of the quickly descending ship, and lastly, the Holy Shell Mobile Armor took up a spear-like thing.

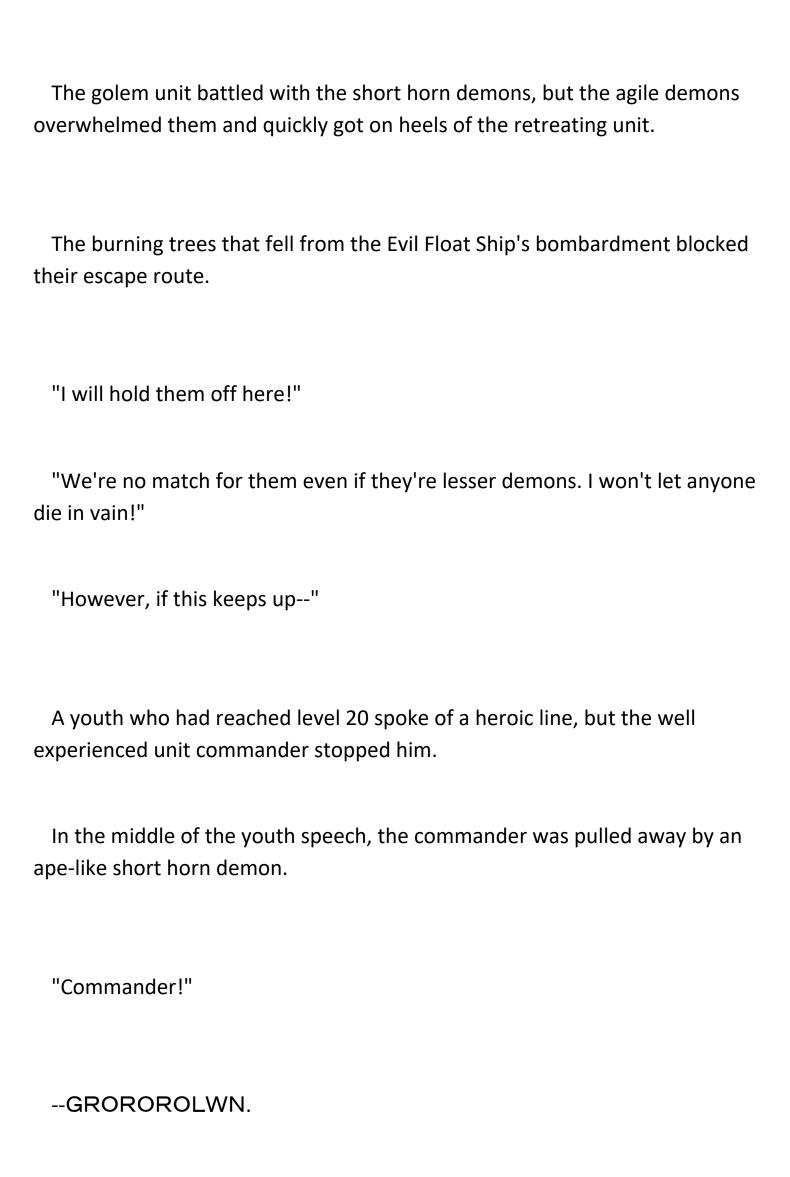
[RIIIIIIIIINGRANDEEEEEEEEE]

It cried out through the external speaker, and then the Holy Shell Mobile Armor made a leap off of the falling Evil Float Ship toward the small airship Ringrande was riding.

"Choiyaa!"

Just before the armor could grab the airship, it made a turn like a fighter jet. It was an intense maneuver unthinkable of the slow moving airships of this world. "I-I'm going to fall!" The one riding on the airship doesn't think that it's a safe move to do however. Ringrande ended up having to cling on to the handrail with her dear life in order to not get thrown off the airship. "I-it's demons!" "Send the golem unit forward!" "All hands, retreat while holding them back!" The short horn demons that jumped out of the Evil Float Ship surprised the

anti-aircraft unit of the Duchy Capital army.



The youth pulled out his mithril alloy sword to come to the rescue, but the short horn demon extended its arm and flung him away.

"--■■■ Drag Ignis"

A dragon of flame appeared while smashing the burning fallen trees and hit the short horn demon while scattering explosive flames around.

The commander who was pulled in also got burned but he was already mortally wounded.

"Just when I chased a fool who rampaged with the legacy of his Majesty that should have been sealed, reincarnated demons huh... And there's even Yamato's legacy."

A black clothed alchemist with a covered up face showed up from behind a fallen tree.

--GROROROLWN.

"Hmph, figured it won't die from one shot--"



"Hero huh... How ironic."

The alchemist looks at the coming crowd of short horn demons while laughing sarcastically.

"--Leave. **■■■■■■■...**"

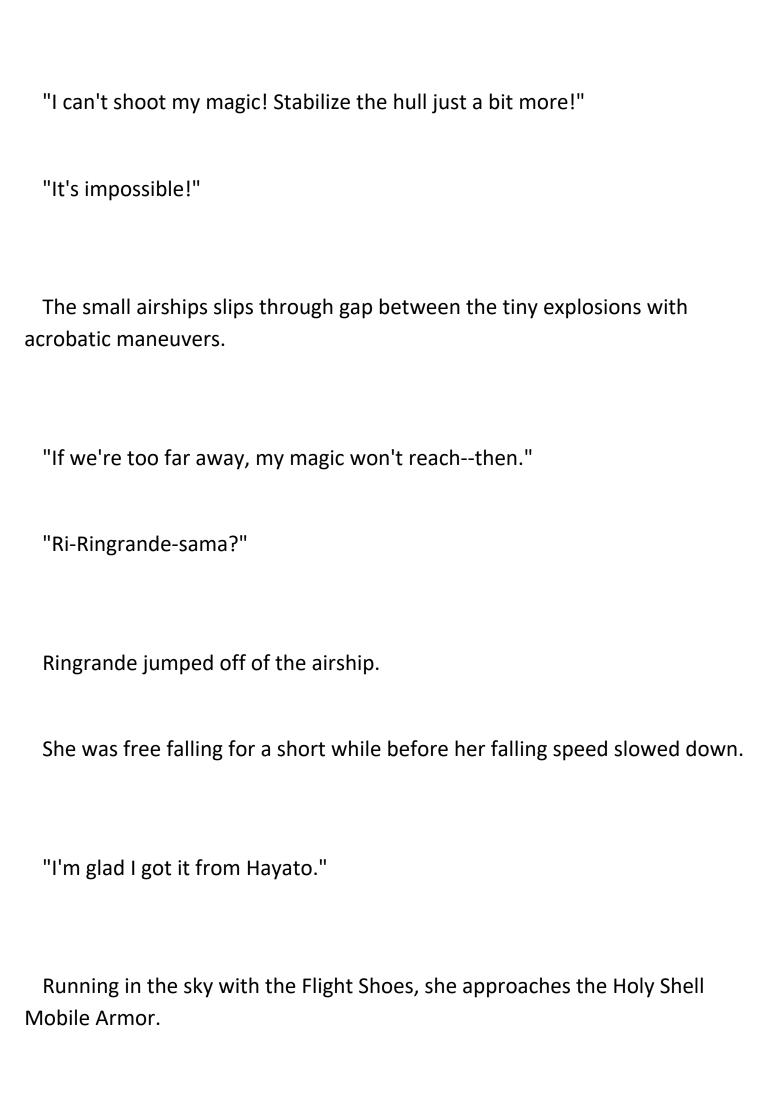
The soldiers retreat, leaving the alchemist who has begun a ranged attack magic chant.

 \Diamond

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

A two-pronged spear in the Holy Shell Mobile Armor hand was thrust at the small airship Ringrande was riding on.

Light buckshots that shot out of the spear tips exploded near the small airships.



"Sheesh, can't you say anything else?"

She fired [Quick Burst] that could be chanted quickly at the head of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor that was taking the action to attack as a distraction, and closed the distance more.

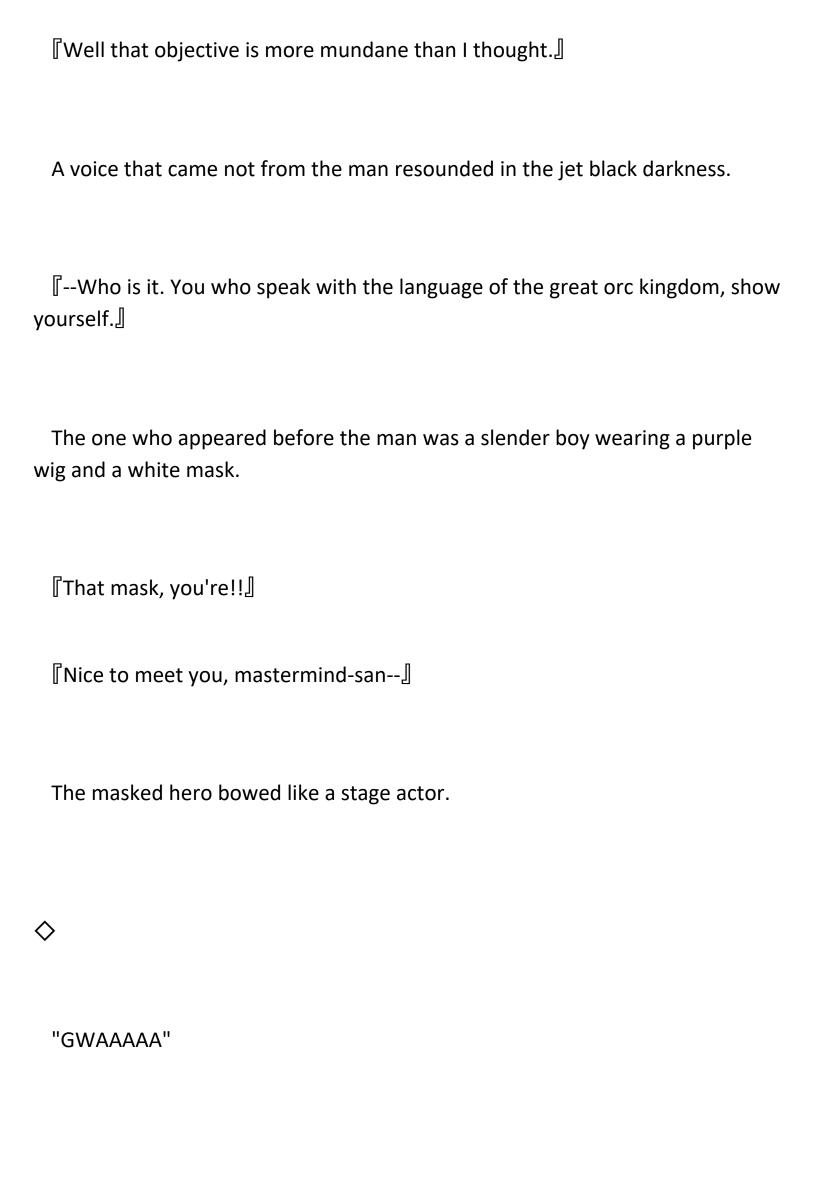


[Kukkukku... spread your struggle, hatred and fear, breed the miasma necessary for his majesty's resurrection.]

Deep in a jet black darkness, a man in purple costume standing in front of a floating mirror muttered.

The mirror reflects the figures of Ringrande who's fighting with the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

White mist is coiling about around the man, sometimes something that resembles an anguished face floats in the white mist.



Ringrande who was hit hard by the two pronged spear got slapped onto the arena's ground.

Even though the force of the blow was enough to carve out a trench on the arena's ground, Ringrande still retained her fighting spirit.

Ringrande tried to get up, but the two pronged spear pierced the ground on both her sides, pressing on and holding her back.

".■■ Quick Burst."

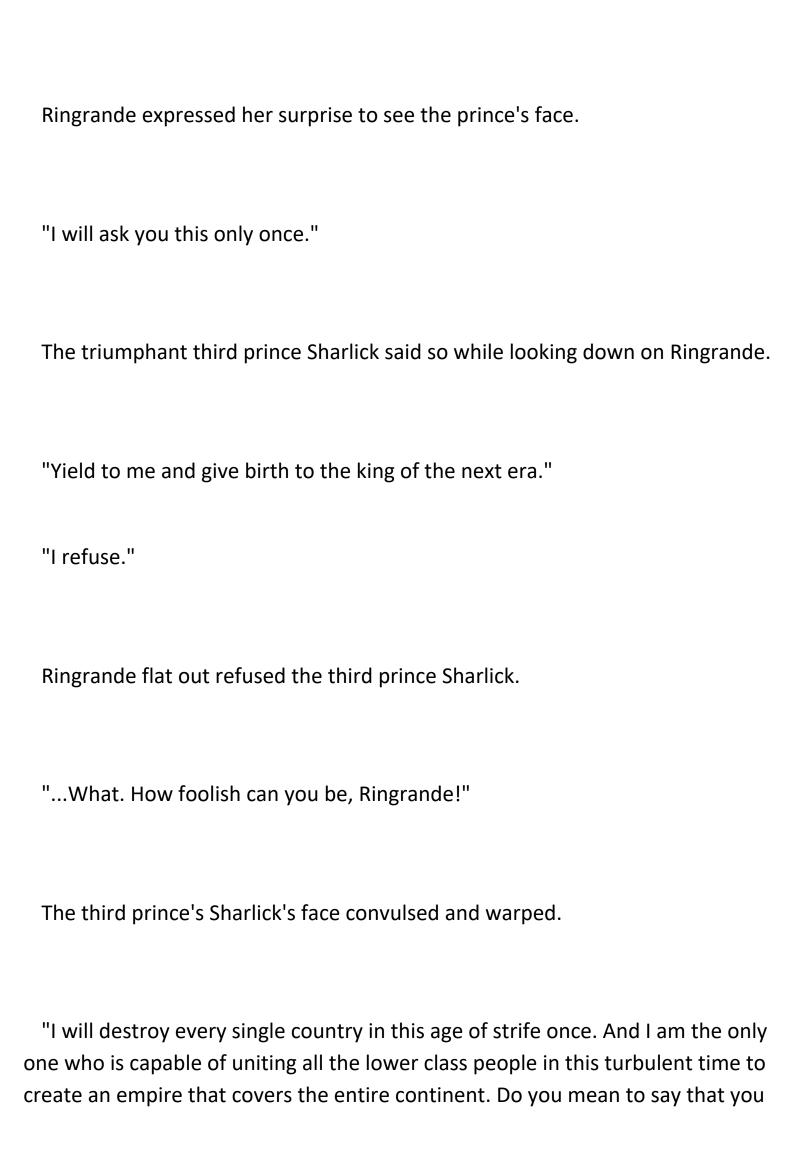
The spell Ringrande chanted while coughing blood disappeared after only leaving a small light explosion.

[What's wrong, ran out of mana?]

A sane sounding voice that made the mad voice earlier seemed like a lie resounded from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's external speaker.

A hatch on the throat of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor opened slightly, and the aged face of the third prince Sharlick peeked out from there.

"That face..."



have a problem becoming the wife of such greatness!" Ringrande isn't answering the third prince Sharlick who rattled on with bloodshot eyes. She's fully concentrating everything to recover her mana. "No, you cannot possibly have any complaint. I will make you, who was discarded after becoming the hero's plaything and missed your chance to marry, into my sex consort, not concubine. You cannot possibly be dissatisfied with that!" Ringrande's eyes were filled with rage. She wasn't lenient enough to overlook words that made a mockery of the too stoic Hero Hayato. Ringrande twisted her restrained body and took out a ring from her pouch. It's a cursed item that can change life force into mana she found in the Blooduscking Labyrinth with Hero Hayato.

She has never used it since it has a fatal weakness of producing mana to the

point of exhausting your entire life force.

"Oh I see now! You must be hesitating! No need to hesitate! I, the great king of the world, forgive you. Ringrande, become my empress!"
Third prince Sharlick feverishly shouted out loud words filled with lovenay, obsession.
"I refuse!"
Ringrande wore the ring and shouted.
"Wha, whatit can't bewhy."
Third prince Sharlick's face distorted in shock.
"Because I hate you of course! Be reborn anew and make a fresh start! ■■ Quick Burst!"
Ringrande's explosion magic burst from the gap of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's cockpit.

"GWAAAAAAAA"

White smoke and smell of burning meat leak out of the gap, and then the cockpit shuts off.

"DIEEEEEEEE"

Mana congregated into the two-pronged spear, and a vestige of light ball was produced in front of Ringrande's eyes.

She could break out if she struggled, but that would likely take time.

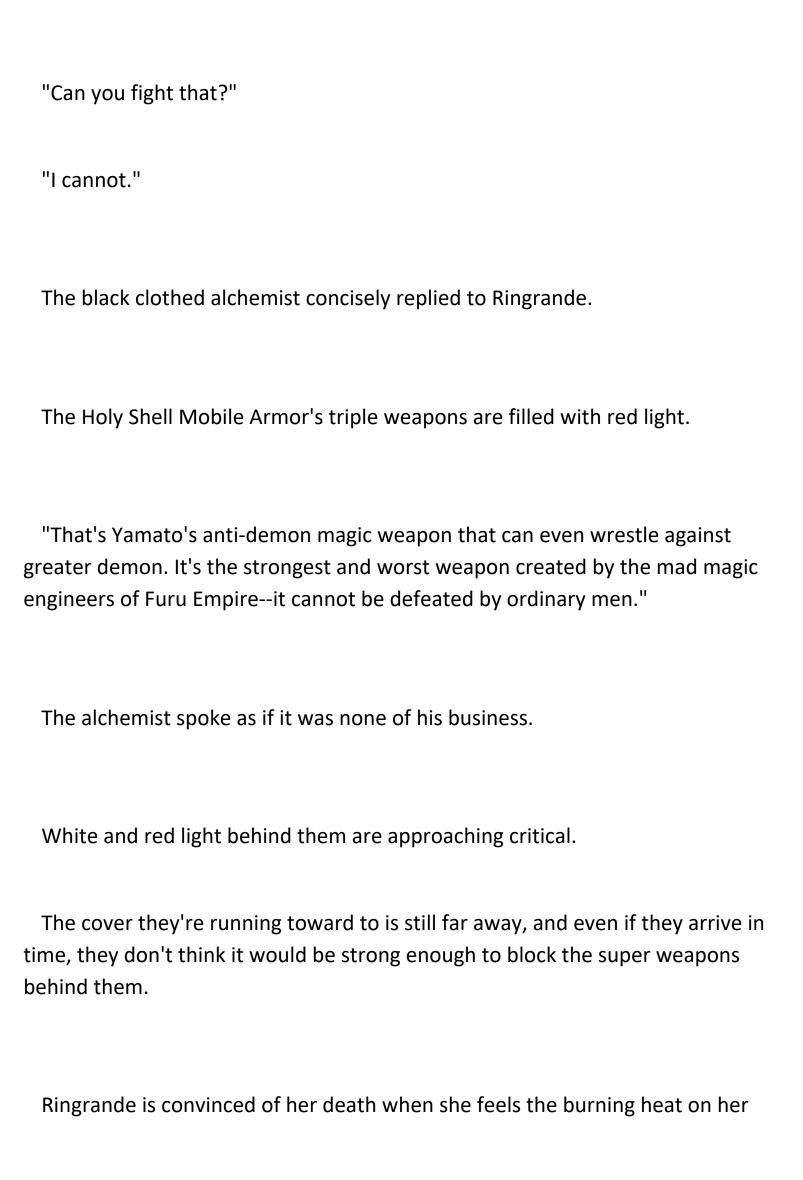
"--■■■ Drag Ignis"

The flame dragon that hit the armpit of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's arm that held the spear spread explosive flames around.

Since the armor's hand got separated from the spear, the light that was going to roast Ringrande disappeared.

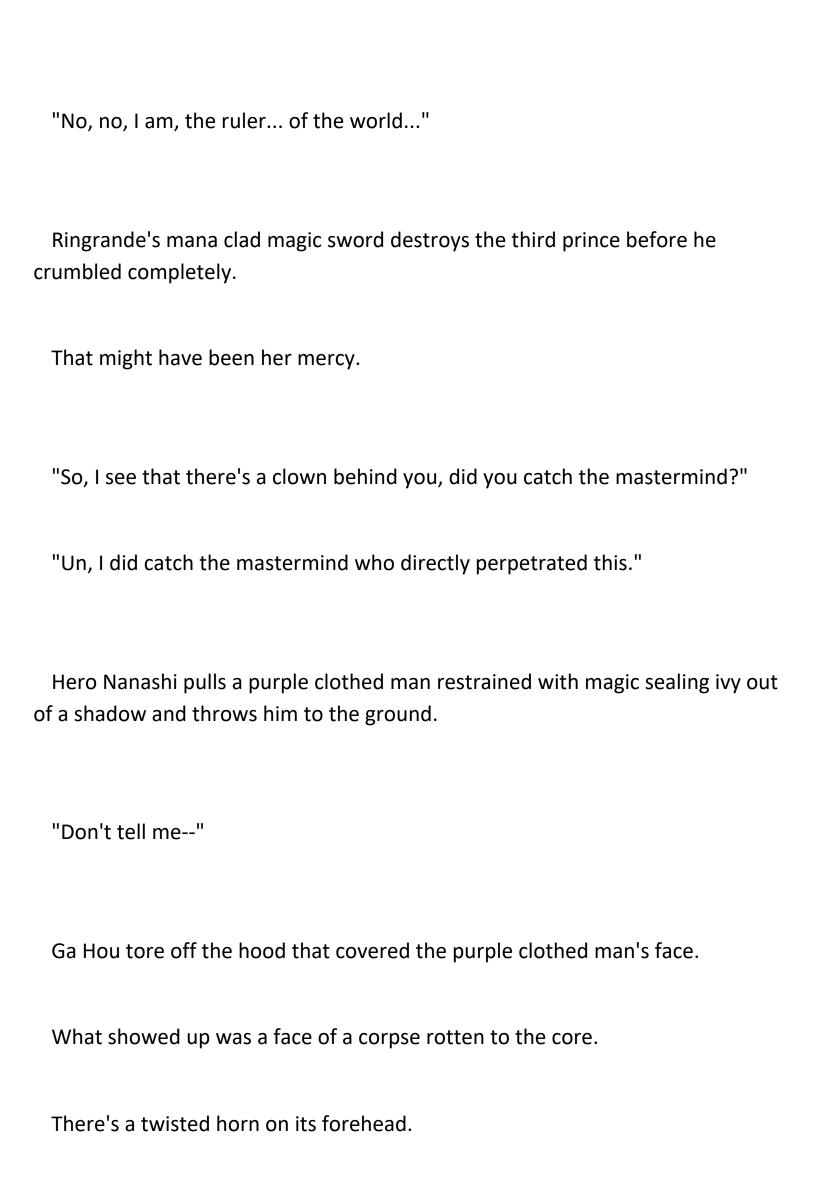
"Good grief.... Here I went to find out the identity of the fool who brought the

Evil Float Ship here, and what I got was just a lover's quarrel, what a waste of time."
A black clothed alchemist showed up in the arena ground along with a heat haze.
"I can't really agree to that, but thank you for your help regardless."
"No need for thanks."
Blue light flashed, and then the two pronged spear turned into round slices.
"This sharpness is as absurd as always."
"Holy sword?"
"Correct. It's a blade to fell any evil given to me by my friend."
The magic artillery on the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's arms, and the [Divine Punishment Cannon] on its chest are clad with mana.
Ringrande and the black clothed alchemist run off to look for a cover.

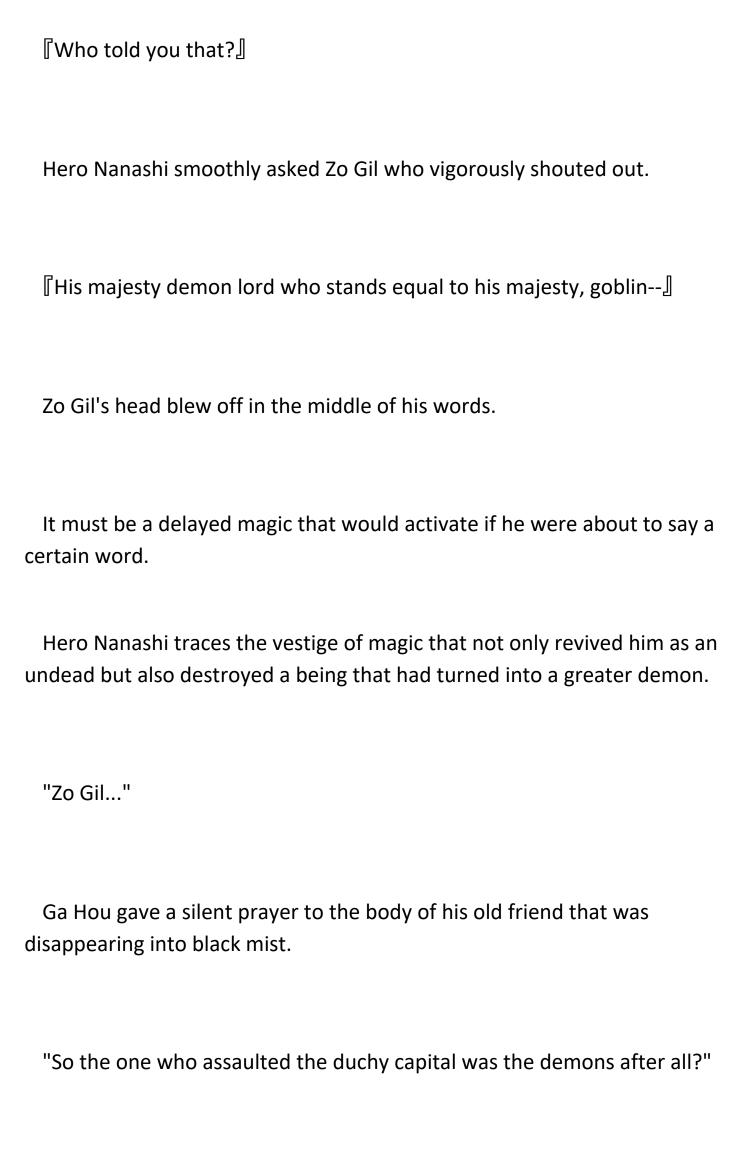


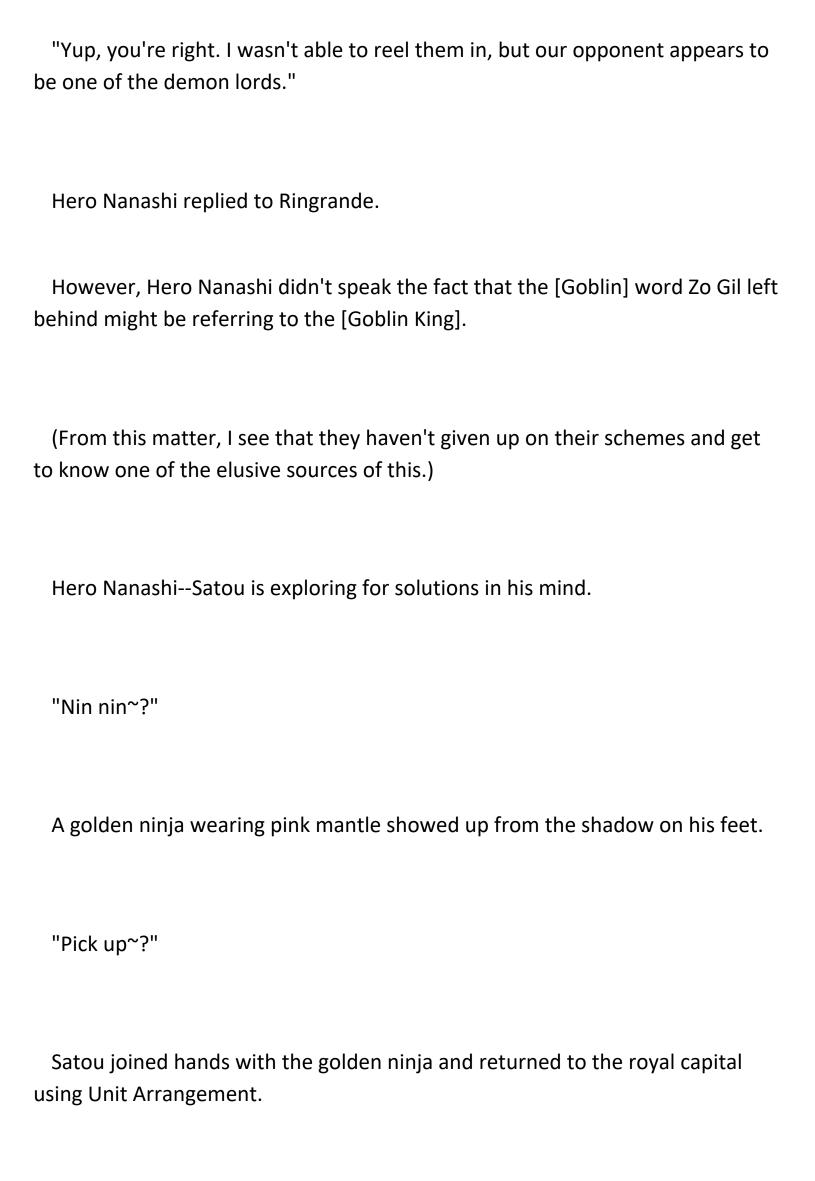






『--Zo Gil.』 [Is that you Ga Hou?] Ga Hou's face grimaced to see a familiar face under the hood. A face of pity and grief to see a former colleague who got called back as an undead and been reborn as a greater demon with Twisted Demon Horn. [What would be the reason for you, the one entrusted to command the entire army of his majesty, to lay waste on his majesty's grave. Is there any other reason than for the second coming of his majesty. [You fool... You think his majesty would wish to be revived as a demon lord.] It's probably the difference in perception between someone who died before the final battle and someone who survived through it. To rebuild Orc Empire on this land--that is his majesty's wish!





Apparently, something happened in the royal capital.

16-14. End of the Assailants (2)

Satou here. There's this saying, "The mountains have brought forth a mouse", but I think it's better than them bringing forth a major volcanic eruption. I mean, going on a pleasure trip in peaceful times is more fun.

<TLN: The saying means approximately like 'much ado about nothing'.>

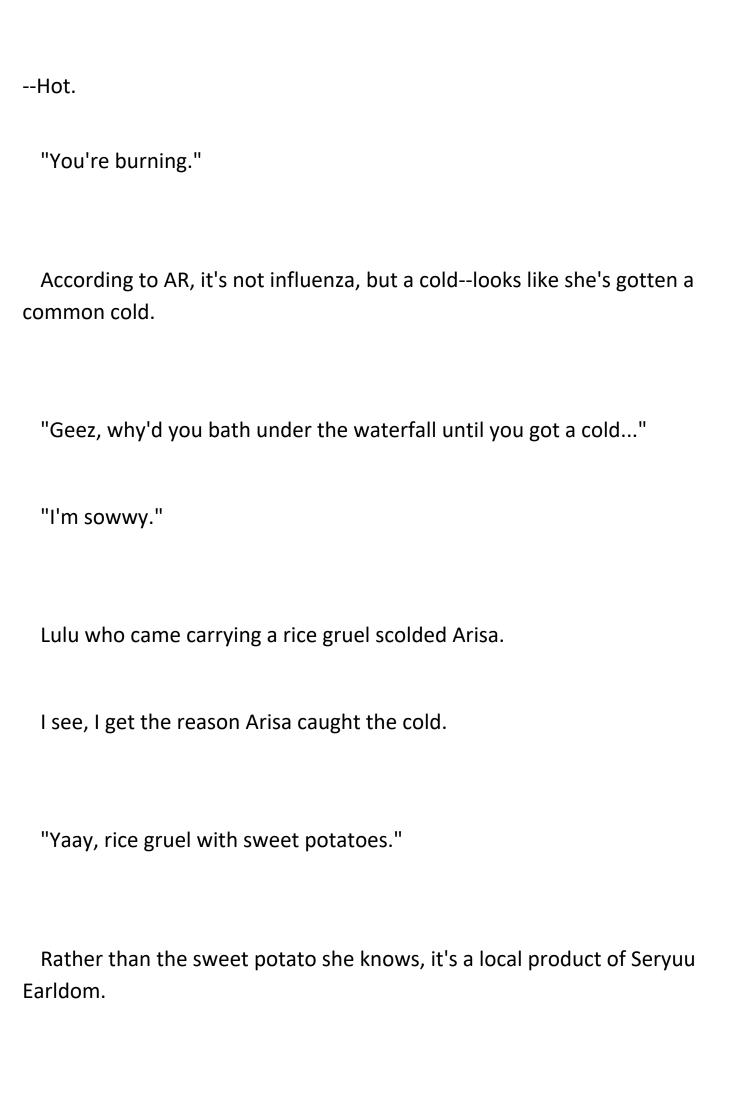
"Arisa!"

I went with Tama using Unit Arrangement and jumped into the place she led me to.

"Master... I'm, sorry..."

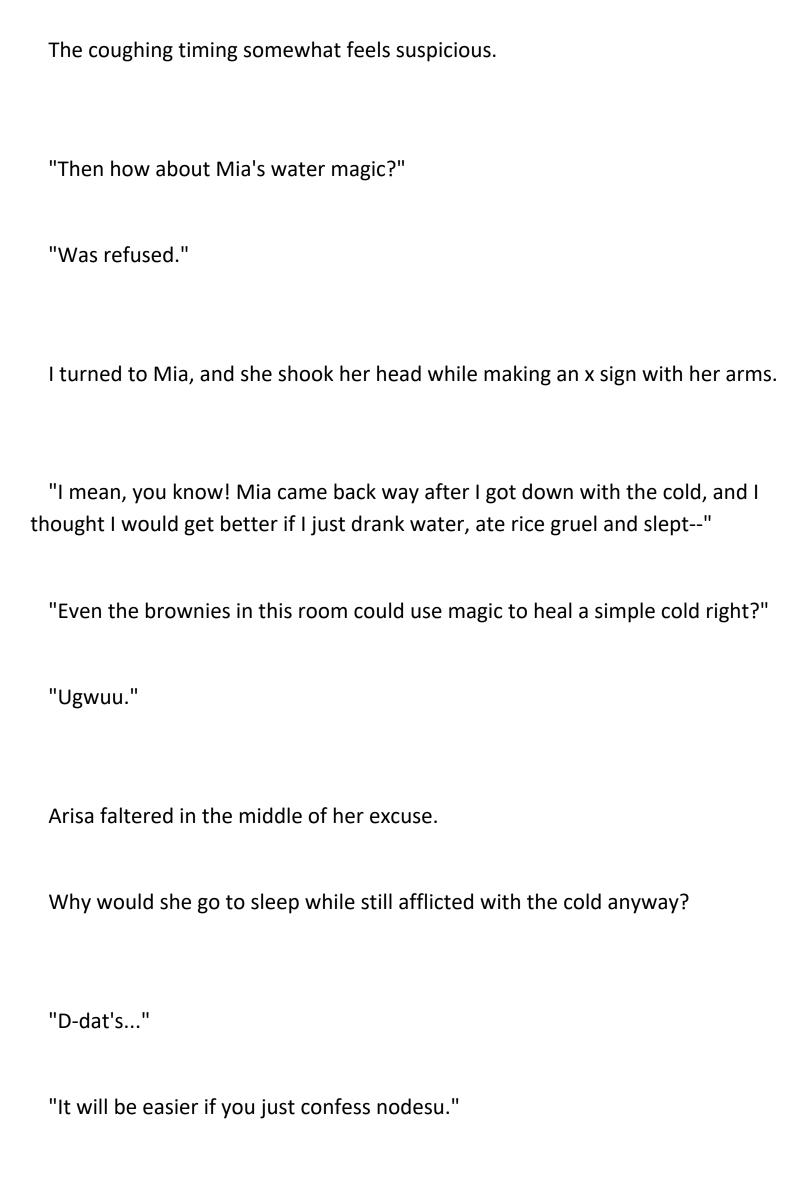
"Pull yourself together."

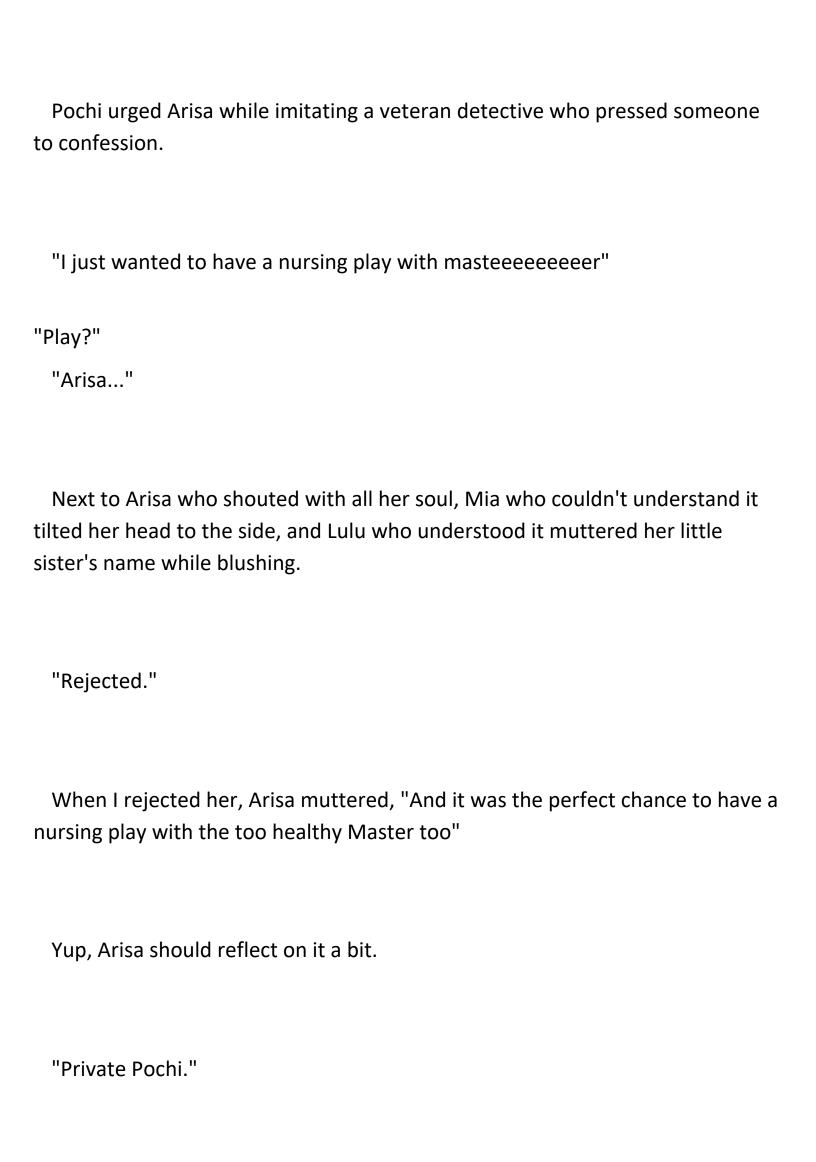
I take Arisa's small hand as she muttered weakly and put my forehead on hers.

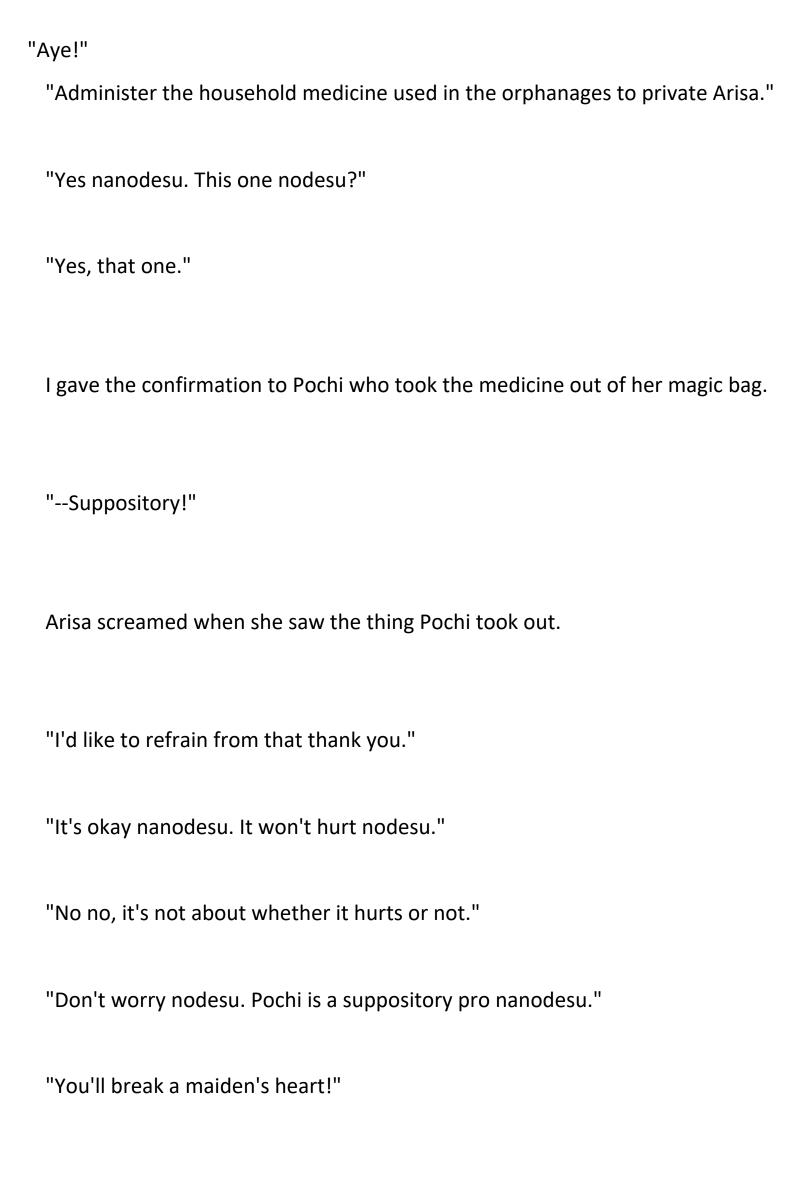




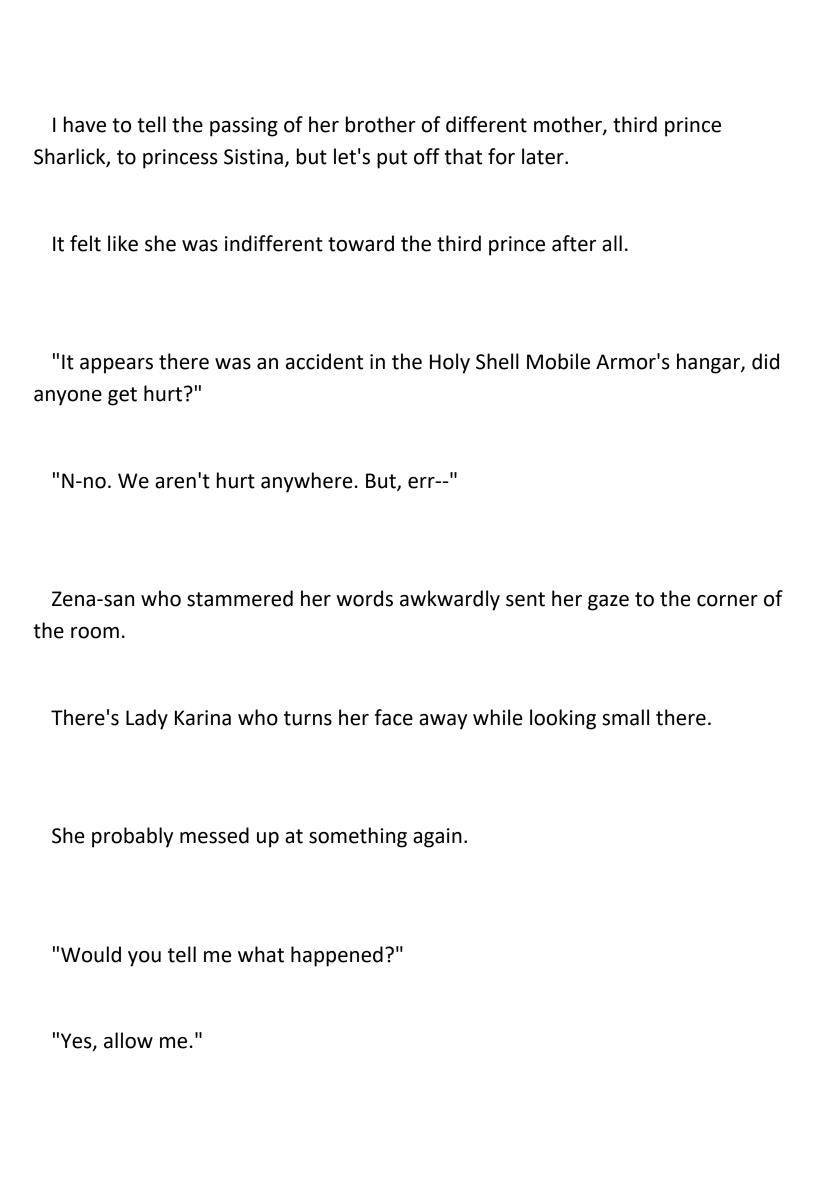


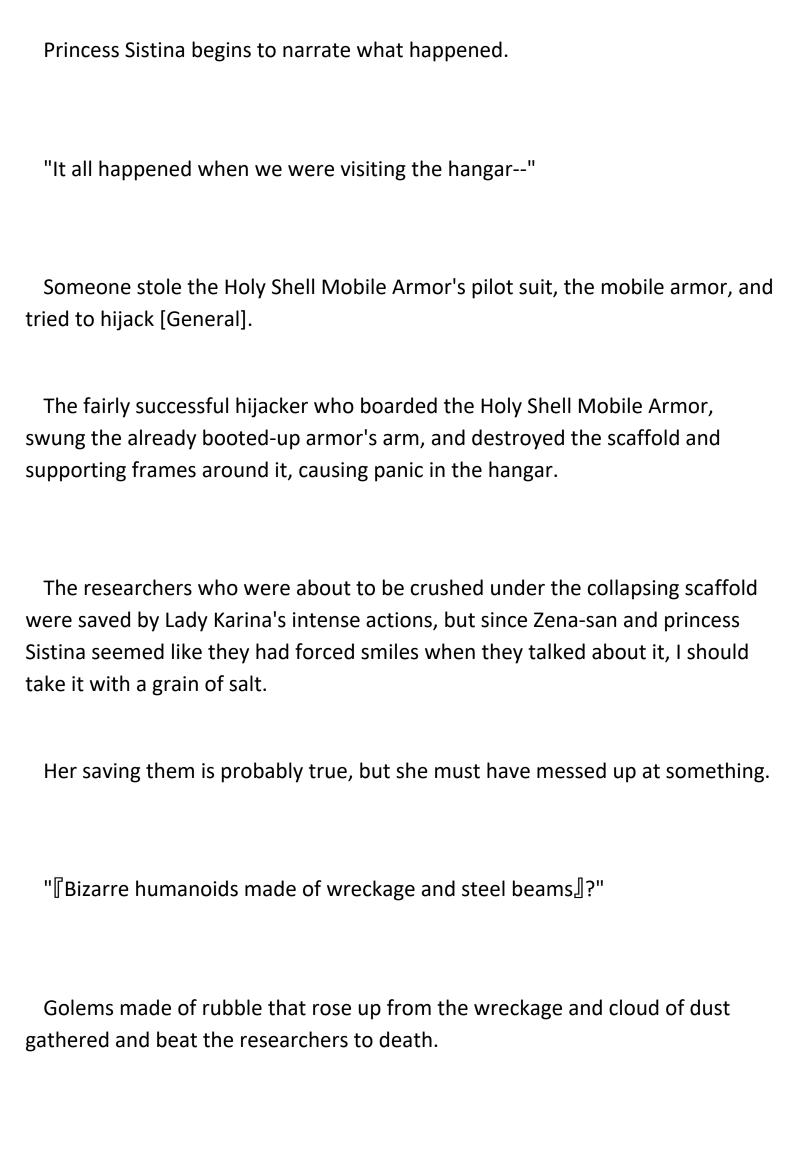


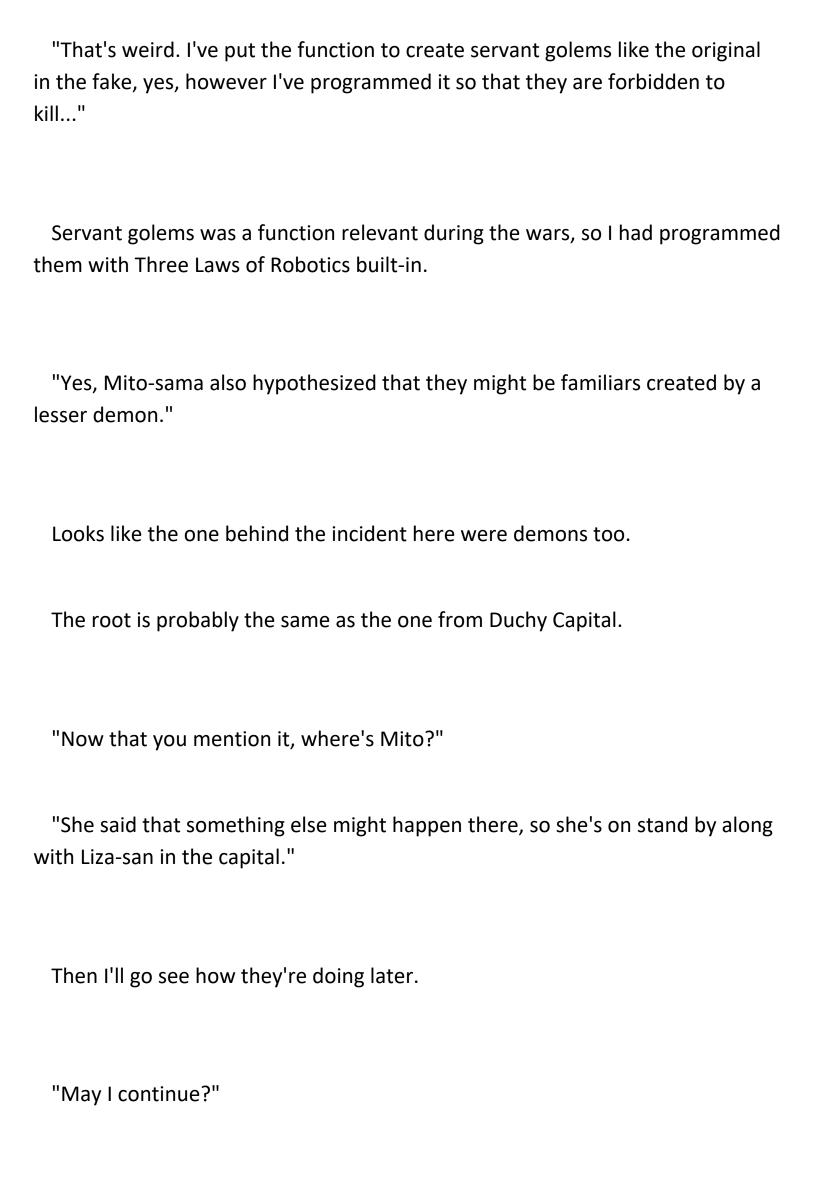


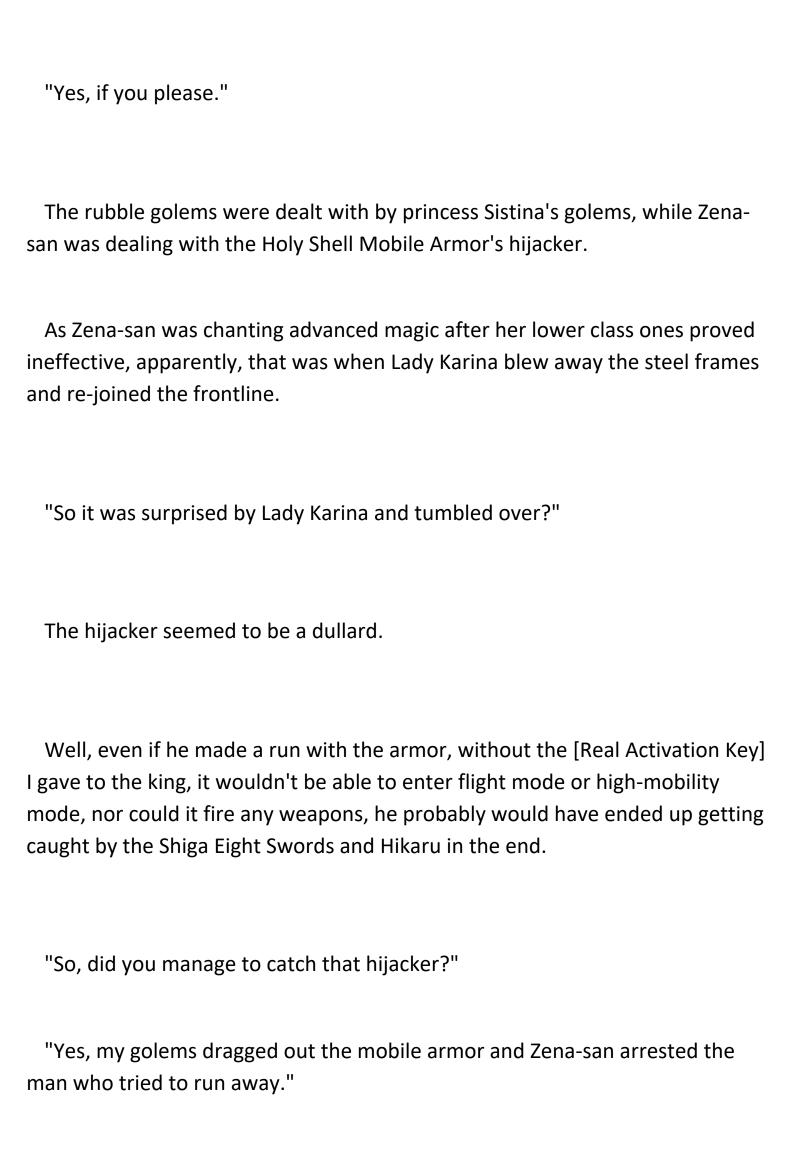




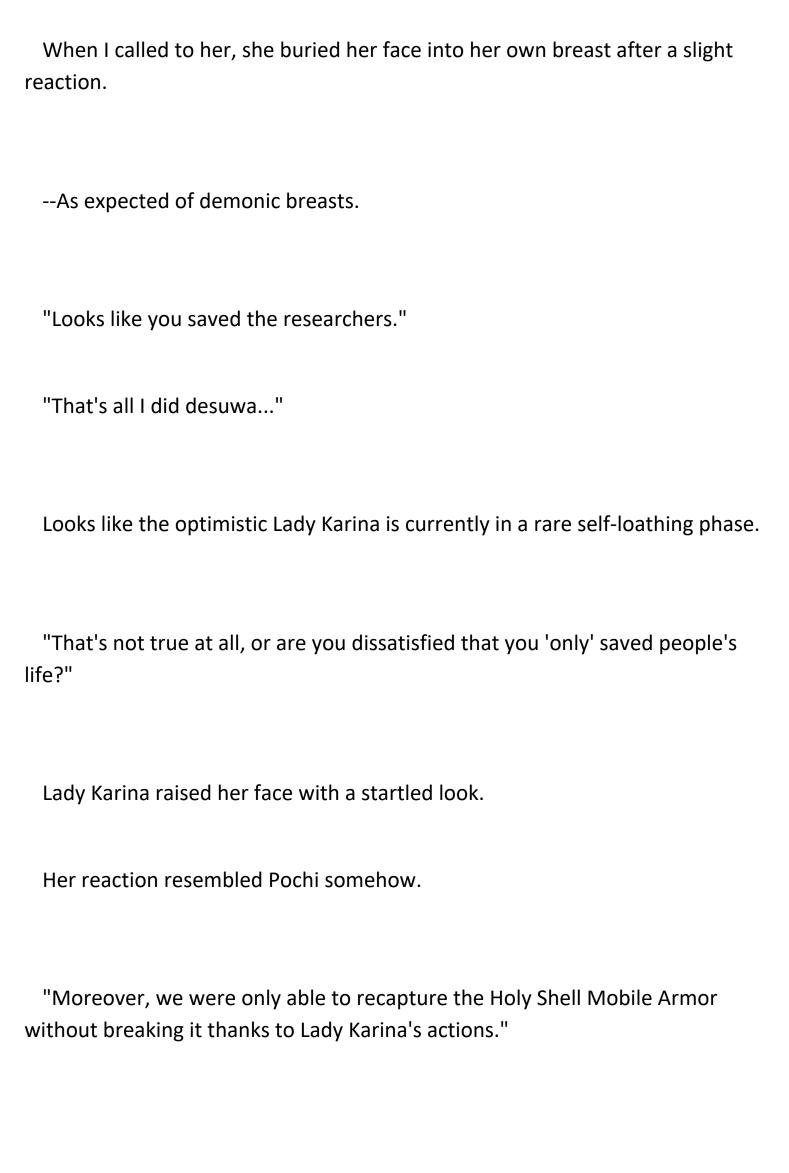


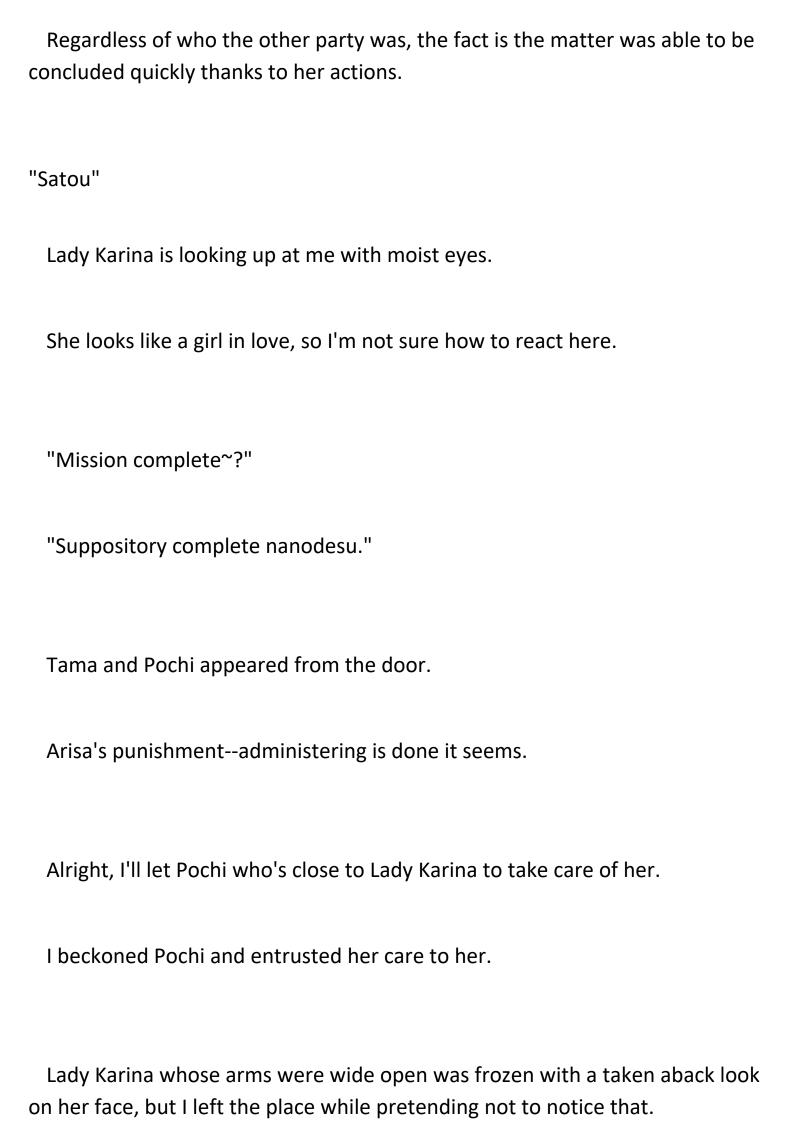




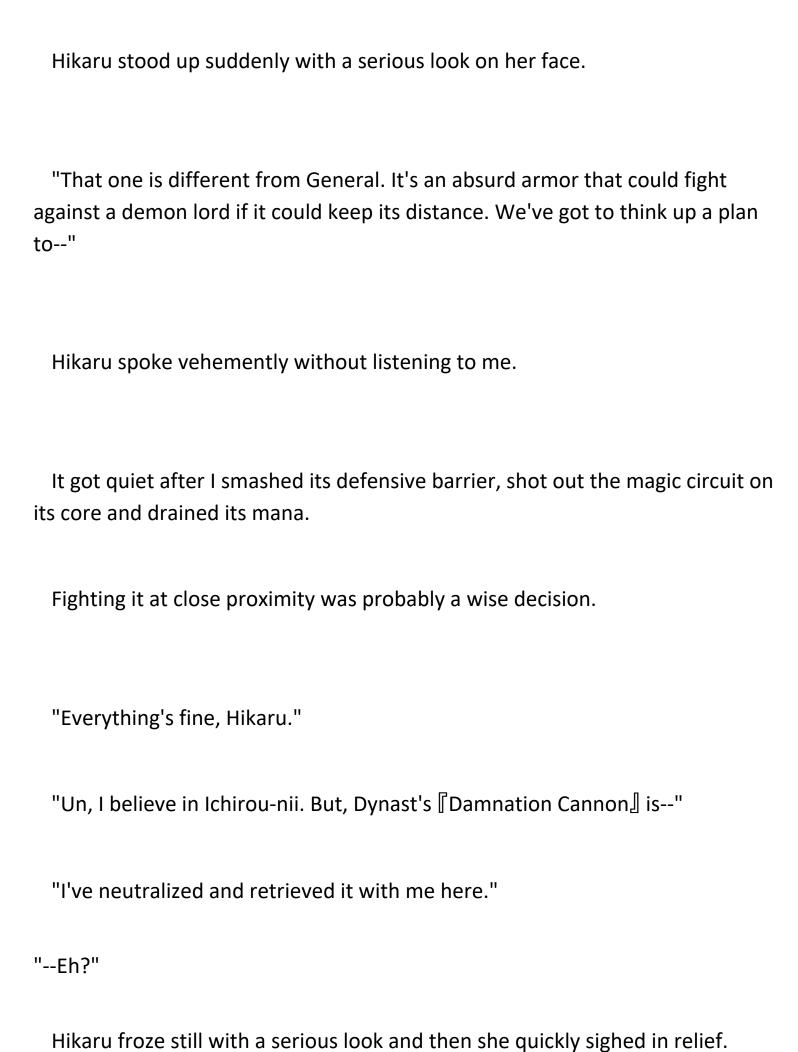


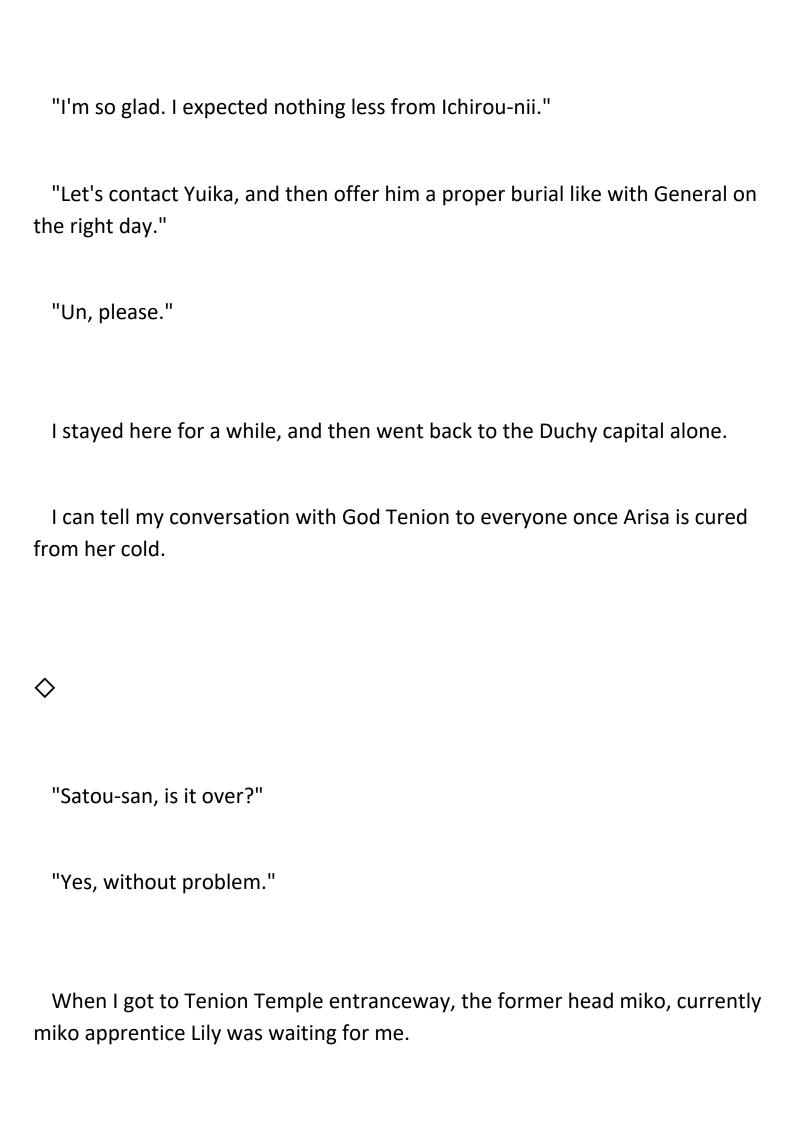
The hijacker seemed to be the page fired by the first prince back then, who was also a former employee of the third prince.
Well, they were probably trying to cause something in the capital while that man created a diversion as a throwaway piece.
Hikaru is probably staying with Liza in the capital because she came to the same conclusion.
"You two did great."
When I praised the two, Lady Karina's mood got even gloomier in the corner of the room.
Apparently, she feels bad for being the only one who did nothing great.
I walk to Lady Karina.
"Karina-sama."
"Satou"

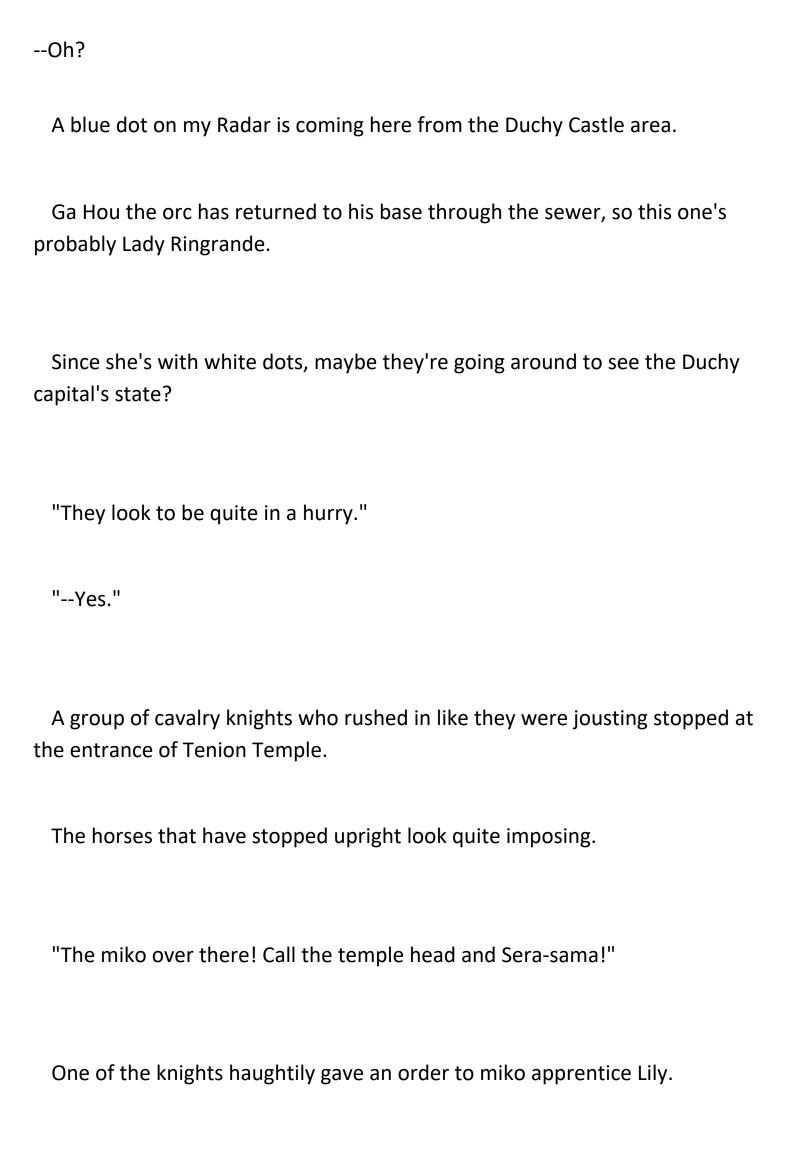


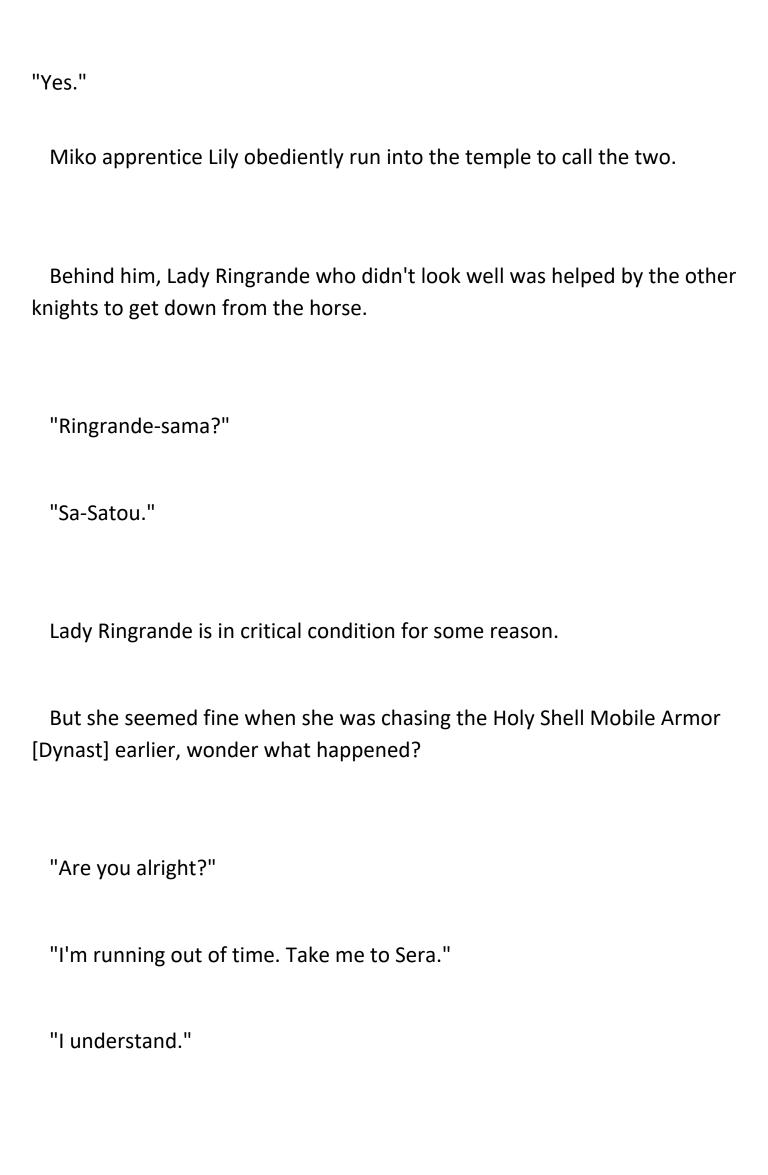


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"Hikaru."
"Ichirou-nii."
I teleported next to Hikaru who was sitting on top of a Royal Castle's spire.
From what I gather on the Map, I don't see anyone like demons, or reincarnated people nor unknown high level people.
The sage mice, Chuu Fat and his colony hasn't reported any abnormality either.
Liza is standing with one leg on top of another spire, doing a quiet stance training like a master martial artist.
"I found Dynast in the Duchy Capital."
"You did?"







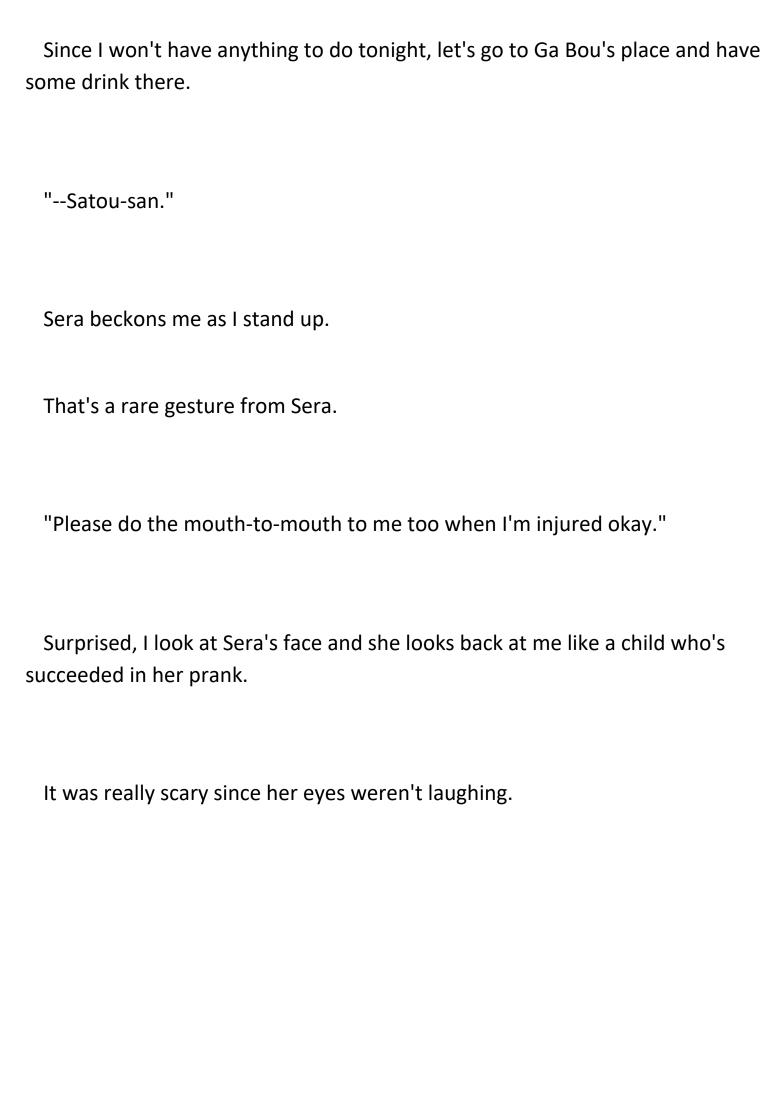




her health had been exhausted.
The other knights were going to come too, but I kept them away by telling them that I couldn't let Sera, an unmarried woman, in her nightdress be exposed.
I close the door with a thud.
The sleeping Sera is the only one in this room, so let's do this.
"Fracture."
I touched Lady Ringrande's cursed ring and then it crumbled away like a rusted ring.
This saves time from dealing with a cursed item, no complain please.
The health reduction has stopped after the ring is destroyed, but she's beer terribly weakened already.
"Ringrande-sama, please drink this."

I push an elixir bottle on her mouth, but she's already lost consciousness and can't drink it.
I put the elixir in my mouth and make Lady Ringrande drink it mouth-to-mouth.
It's just a treatment and the impregnable fortress pairs shouting [Guilty] aren't looking, so this should be fine.
The AR reading indicates that Lady Ringrande's health gauge has been safely refilled.
"Satou-san?"
I heard a half-asleep voice of Sera from the bed.
"Ane-sama!"
I used [Magic Hand] to catch Sera who tried to get up from the bed and almost fell from her anemia.

Since it didn't look like she saw me giving the mouth-to-mouth, I told her about the attack on Duchy Capital, and how Lady Ringrande used a cursed item to avert the crisis, resulting in her critical state.
"Ane-sama is always like that. She always goes straight forward with only the goal in mind"
Sera is brushing Lady Ringrande's hair who's still unconscious.
Even though she sounded like she couldn't believe her, it seems like she doesn't truly hate her.
"I was able to converse with God Tenion thanks to Sera-san. I'll tell you the details along with the other girls once we get back to the Solitary Island Palace."
"Yes, I'm glad to be of service."
I told Sera what needs to be told while Lady Ringrande was still unconscious.
"We will leave the duchy capital tomorrow morning. You should get some rest in Tenion Temple today."
"Yes."



16-15. New Journey

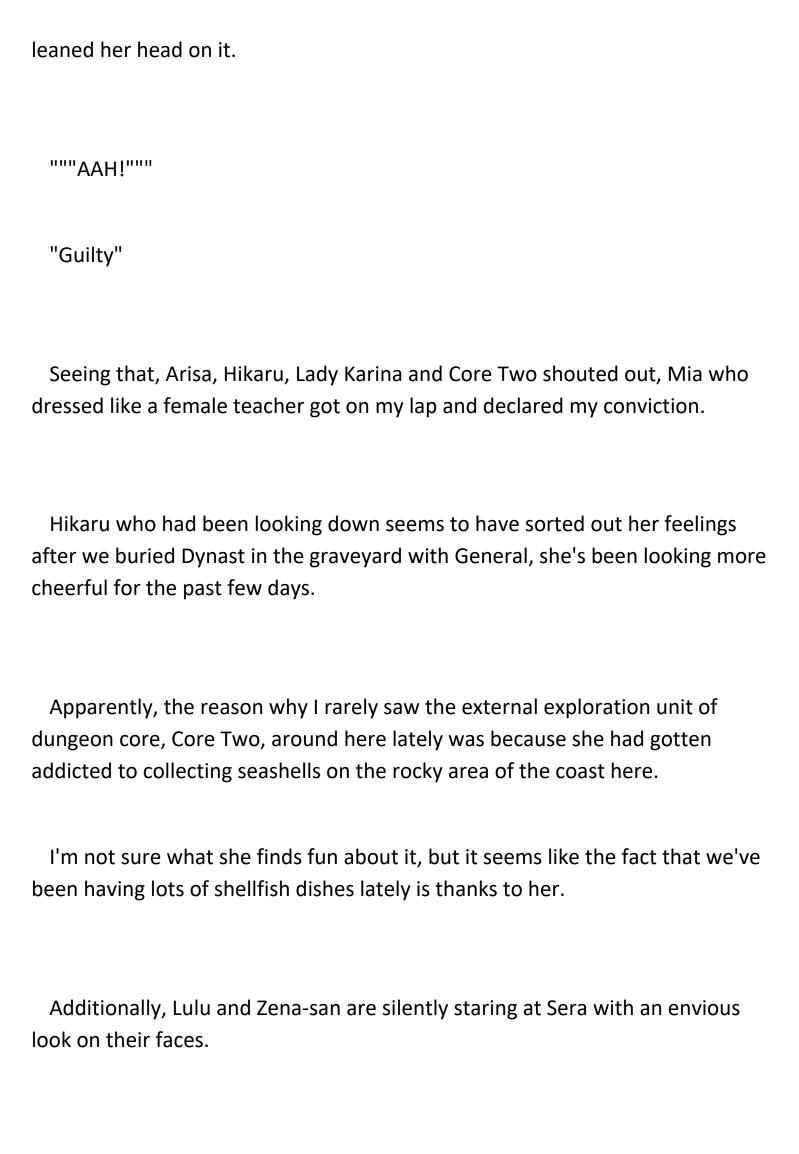
Satou here. I learned the word 'Quest' from games. Back then, they were small events that could be started anytime you want, but recently there have been quests that can happen unexpectedly and can be missed out. I'm looking forward as to what kind of quests will be added next.



Arisa knitted her eyebrows with a complicated look on her face.

[&]quot;Also, I thought gods could only speak in broken speech."

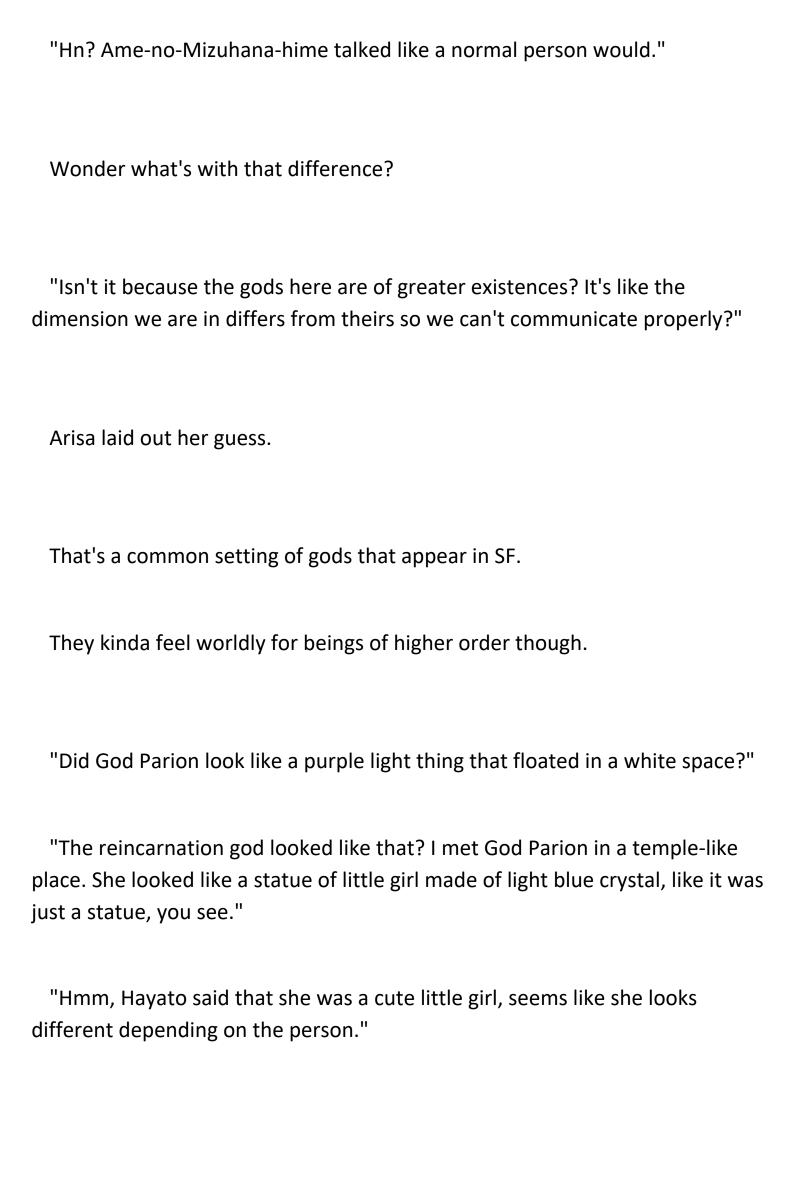
"Was it like that when you were reincarnating, Arisa?" The former depressed demon lord, Shizuka who happened to come by asked Arisa. "Un, I mean, rather than broken speech, it was more like images with overlapping meanings." "Then it's the same as me. Yuika told me before that it was the same for her too." Looks like Shizuka and Goblin Princess Yuika knew each other. Maybe they get along well since both are shut-in type with high girl powers. "It was like that with me too at first. I guess I was only able to hold a proper conversation thanks to Sera-san?" "I've done nothing much. --Perhaps this is what they call the fruits of wife's labor." Sera who was sitting next to me with a composed face clung to my arm and

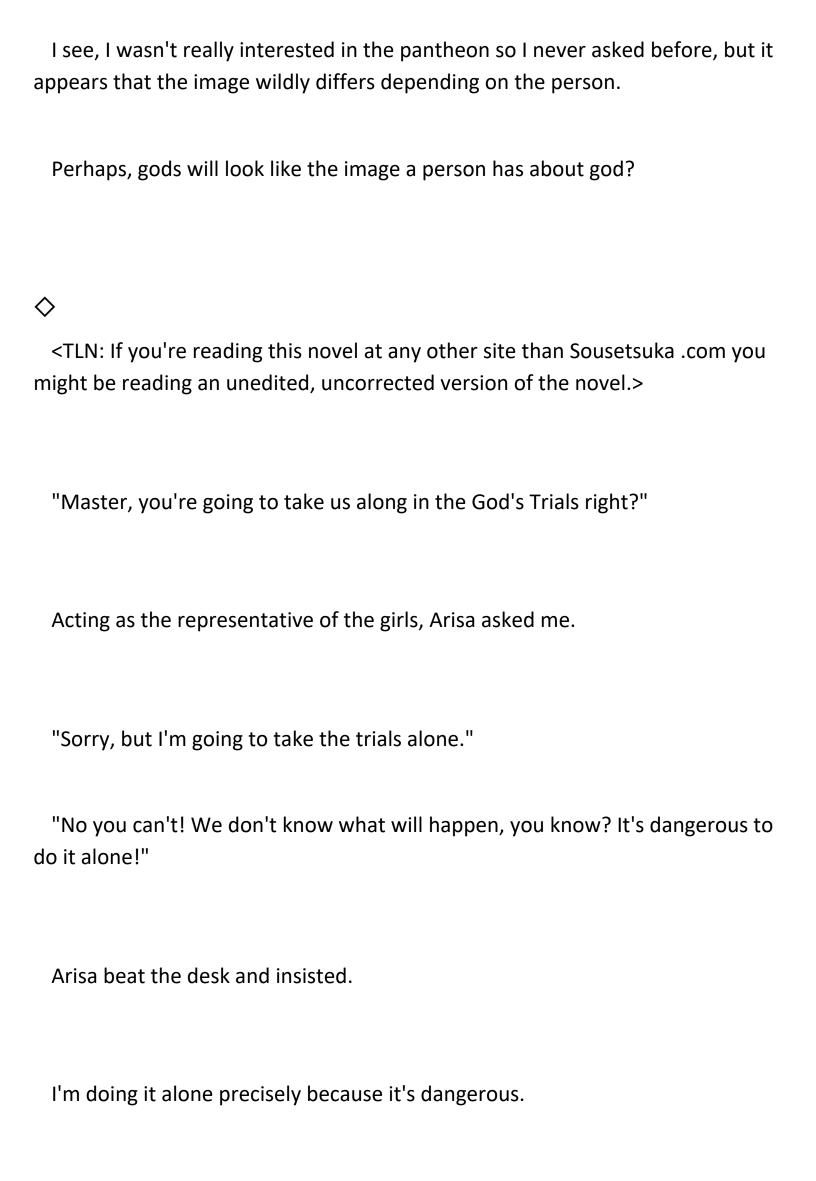














I'm prepared for it if the other party intends to go through it though.

By recycling the code from Arisa's anti-god forbidden spell of space magic [Mythology Down], I have developed a spirit magic called [Mythology Eater] in the form of a platinum-colored great wolf artificial spirit for Mia to command.

Additionally, I've coated Pochi's holy sword, Tama's ninja katana, and Nana's great sword with fine powder made from dragon fang using Weasel Empire's technology.

I got this fine powder when Tama and Pochi were visiting Fujisan Mountain where the Heavenly Dragon was together with Hikaru.

Who would have thought that you would get hold of materials for strengthening weapons by doing some dental care.

Lulu's acceleration gun's bullets have also been coated with the aforementioned powder.

"You have to really call me if it seems dangerous okay? There's no miracle like in manga where the protagonist suddenly awakens to his hidden power and turns the tide around, you hear?"

Arisa confirmed me again worryingly.

I have two of those [Hidden Power], that look like it could awaken, in mind, but I don't think it would suddenly become usable so timely like that, thus I think exhausting all possible options and human resources beforehand is imperative since we're facing someone that might take an aggressive position.

I've got to complete my own trump card too before we depart for the trials.

"I got it. Besides, I'm only going alone during the trials. Liza and Nana will accompany me right until the trials, and we will be touring the foreign lands with everyone once the trial is over."

"Understood."

"I will definitely protect Master's safety, so I announce."

Apparently many of the countries' cultures on the continent west are left over from Furu Empire era, I'm sure we will find a lot of delicious food and unusual stuff there.

The other girls voiced their dissatisfaction, but they consented when I told them that I would be fine as I would have Team Pendragon's strongest spear and shield with me.

I had no problem having Zena-san who's thorough on everything around, but if I took her along, Lady Karina and Sera would likely follow too so I didn't include her in the end.

In this journey, there is a chance of gods making use of Arisa and Hikaru who carry God's Fragment in them and Sera who has Oracle skill as a back door to peep on us, so I have decided not to take them along after consulting with Arisa and Hikaru.

It goes without saying that the shut-in inclined demon lord Shizuka never seems interested in going from the start, so she's outside of the consideration.

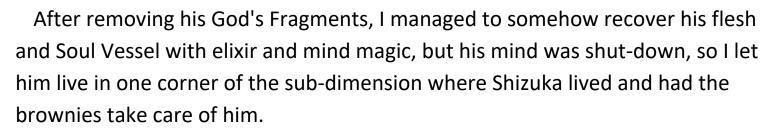
"Oh right, Nezu-san started to say something else besides, [I want to go home]."

That Shizuka said something like it was nothing big.

"By Nezu-san, you means the person who was the rat demon lord?"

"Yes, that one."

Rat demon lord was the person who was too attached to Japan and got his Soul Vessel broken after over-using his Unique Skill.





Leaving aside Arisa's retort, I'm glad that Nezu-shi seems to be recovering.

It might be a good idea to take him along to earth if he's fine with a world that

isn't exactly identical. Additionally, the former sword demon lord, fox girl is spending her days training with the green infant dragon and black dragon Heiron at the Black Dragon Mountains. I visited her from times to times with Liza and her sword skill looked even more skillful than in her demon lord's days. "I'm planning to go to the western part of the continent for a bit." "Western part of the continent--" Tourism minister is my job for once, so I've come here to tell the king and the prime minister about my planned trip. "The next salvation is coming to the west it seems." "As expected of the Dragon Avatar, he's very sensitive to the smell of battlegrounds."

The king and the prime minister muttered in whispers.

Looks like both of them have firmly determined that Satou's identity is [Dragon Avatar].

"Your excellency, I heard rumors that the west was in disarray due to the Divine Punishment, is it still continuing even today?"

"Umu, the confusion from monsters have been calmed down thanks to the heroes dispatched by Saga Empire, however, even heroes cannot do anything about the devastated countries. Disputes in the scramble for grain-producing regions have begun to appear in the continent west."

I don't plan to get involved with faraway countries, but if I see that the scale of the famine looks bad in my journey, I won't hesitate to lend a hand.

Preserved food made from alga, mass produced in the automatic factory have been accumulated enough to feed the entire population of Japan, there should be no problem sharing a bit here.

"Will Sistina go with you?"

"I had that in mind, however, I couldn't possibly take her highness to a place with chaotic public order in fear anything happened. Her Highness will be staying in the royal castle."

I made up some random excuse with the help of Deception skill.
I used the same excuse to leave Sera and Lady Karina too. And also Zena-san.
"That is fine. The empress has been wanting to spend times with Sistina too, so this is just right."
I guess Princess Sistina hasn't been interacting with her family much since she tends to hole up inside the royal castle's forbidden library.
"Earl Pendragon."
The king called me when I was done telling my business.
Wonder what?
"What do you think about Saga Empire emperor's sister, Meryest-dono, who visited here as a member of princess Trimenus's entourage?"
"Yes well, she's a comrade-in-arms who fought together with me and Hero Hayato against the demon lord."



Perhaps she is fated to spend the remainder of her life in the corner of a monastery somewhere.... Alas."

The prime minister muttered quietly.

Even if you do that with a pitying look on your face, I'm still not marrying her okay?

If Princess Maryest has someone in mind, I can just power level him and have him beat an artificial demon lord to make them match each other, and if it's about age, it can be solved with rejuvenation medicine, lots of them.

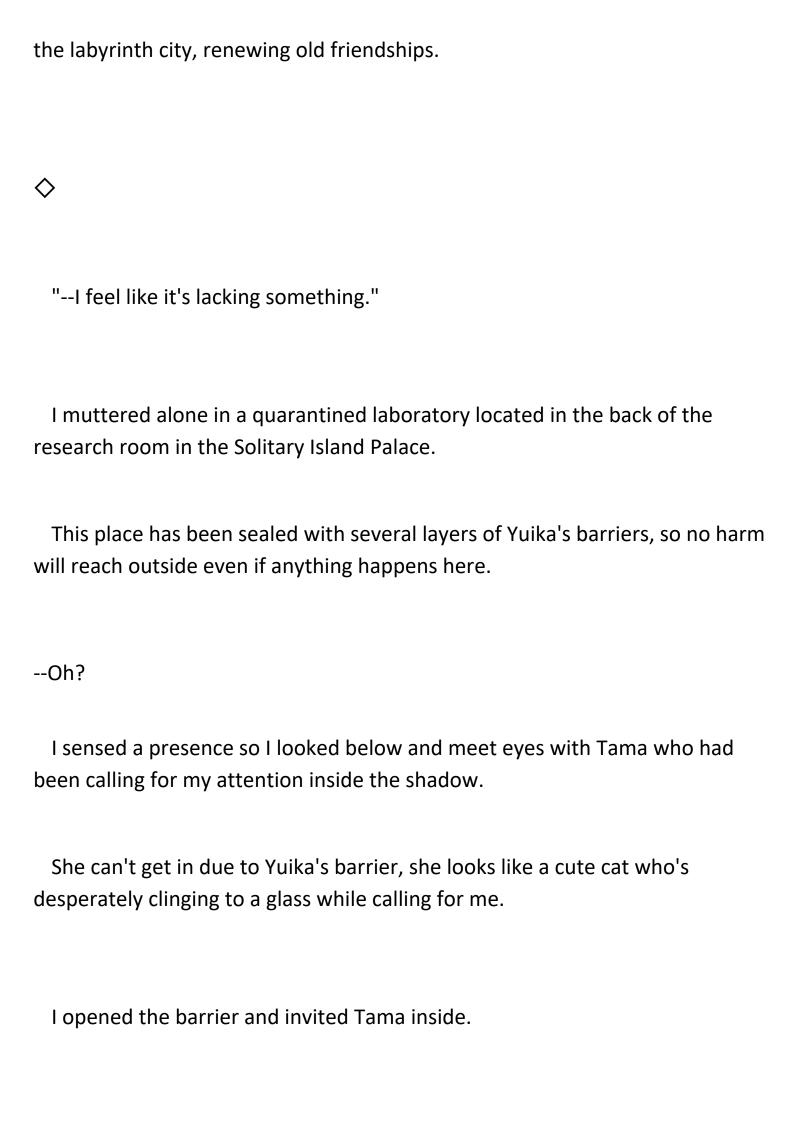
I might as well send lolified lady Ringrande and Princess Maryest to Hayato's world.

Those wild ideas flashed in my mind, but there's quite a few problems to realize that.

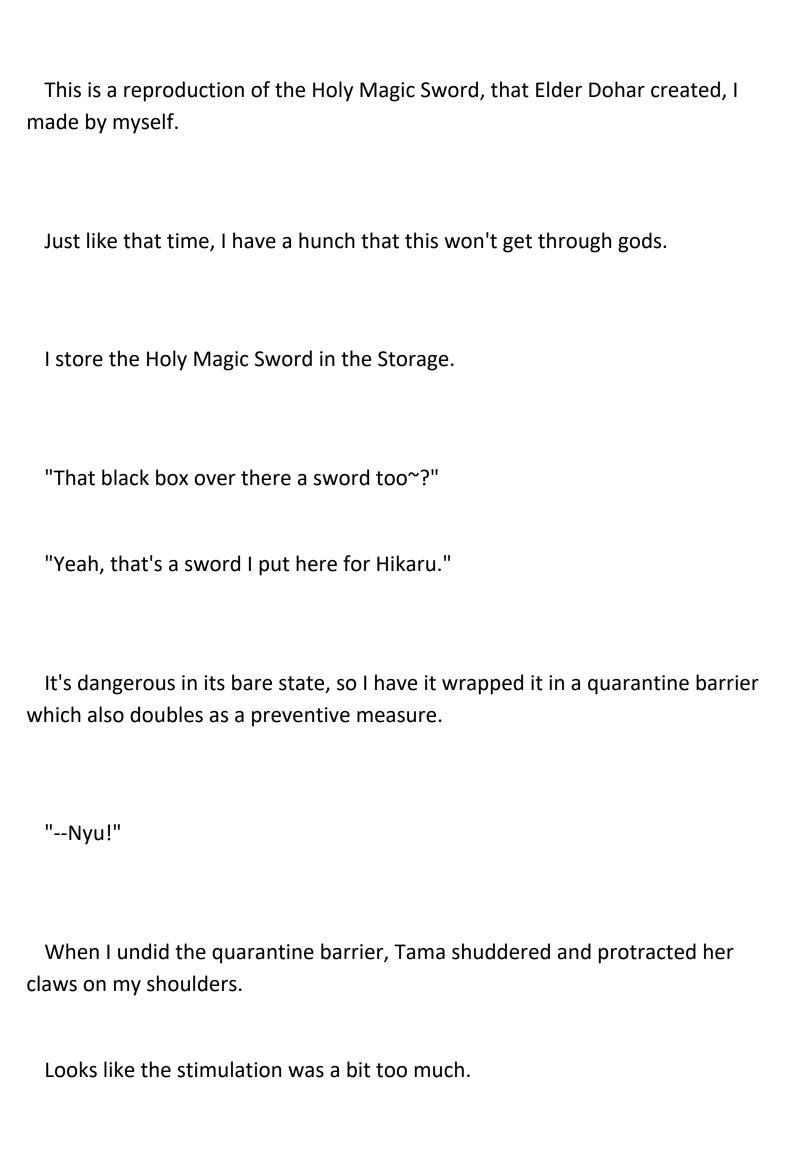
I can at least suggest the idea if she comes to discuss with me after I decline the marriage proposal.

For now, since I've got the permission to go on a trip to the continent west, I should go around and visit my acquaintances to inform them of my departure.

Afterward, I went around to visit my acquaintances in the Royal Capital and



"Master~?"
Looks like she felt lonely because she was blocked by the barrier, she climbed on my shoulders to ride on them and then began to rub her cheeks on my hair.
Tama quickly regained her calm after I lightly patted her head.
"What's wrong?"
"Time for meal~? It's stew ham~ burg today~?
I see, it's already this late huh.
"What's that~?"
Tama is looking at lined up weapons which were in my hands just now.
"That's a sword called Holy Magic Sword."
The Holy Magic Sword is emitting a mix of blue and red light that turns into purple light.

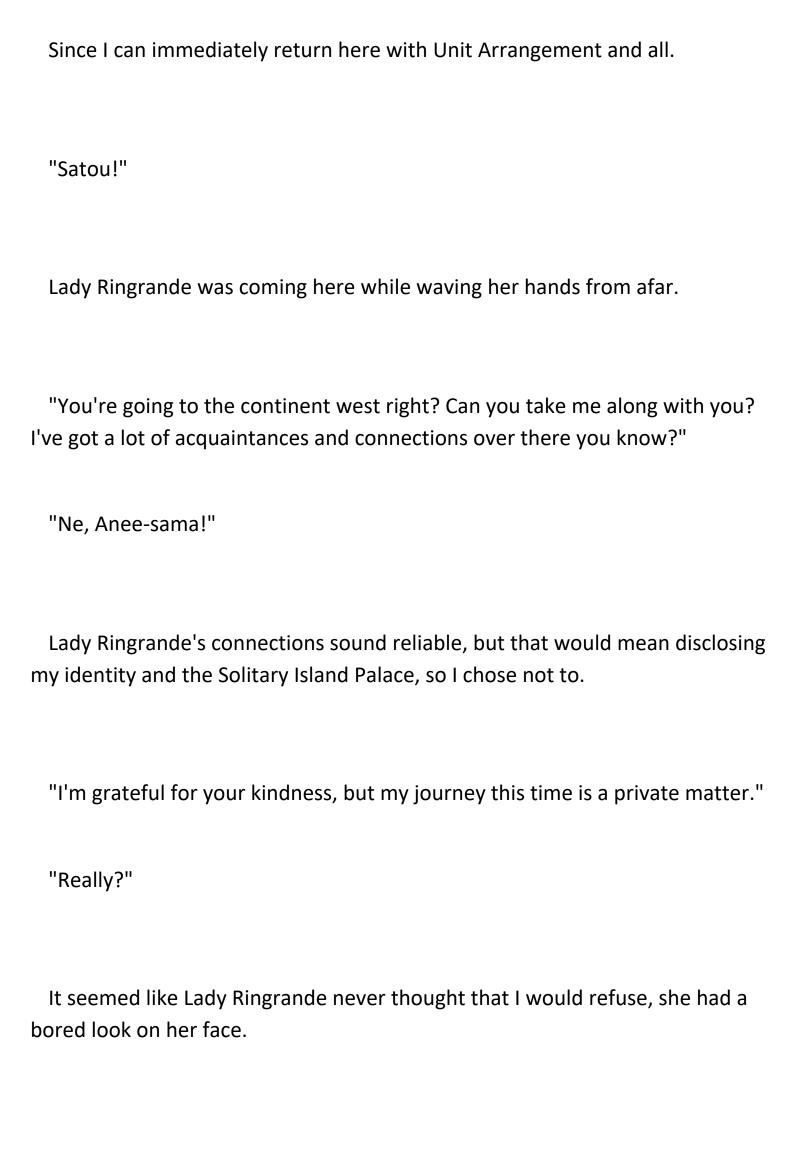




\Diamond
And then, the day we depart for the trials
"We will be going now, so I gallantly announce."
The heavily armed Nana saluted everyone who came to see us off in front of the airship's ramp.
It's not like we're going to the frontline okay.
"Everyone, get along well, okay."
"Cya~?"
"Pochi would like meat as her souvenir nodesu."
Tama and Pochi replied Liza at their own pace.
"Yes, I will bring some solid hard meat back with me."

"Oh, great~?"





"Oh that's right, you've got a marriage proposal from Maryest right? If you're marrying Mary, how about marrying me too? You've got a lot of wives anyway, so adding one with me should pose no problem right?"

"There's a lot of problem! What are you doing marrying someone you don't even love!"

Sera was enraged at Lady Ringrande's declaration.

Lady Ringrande turned her face away and muttered miserably, "--I mean, I can't meet the person I love anymore", which could only be picked up by me and Ninja Tama who had [Attentive Ear] skill.

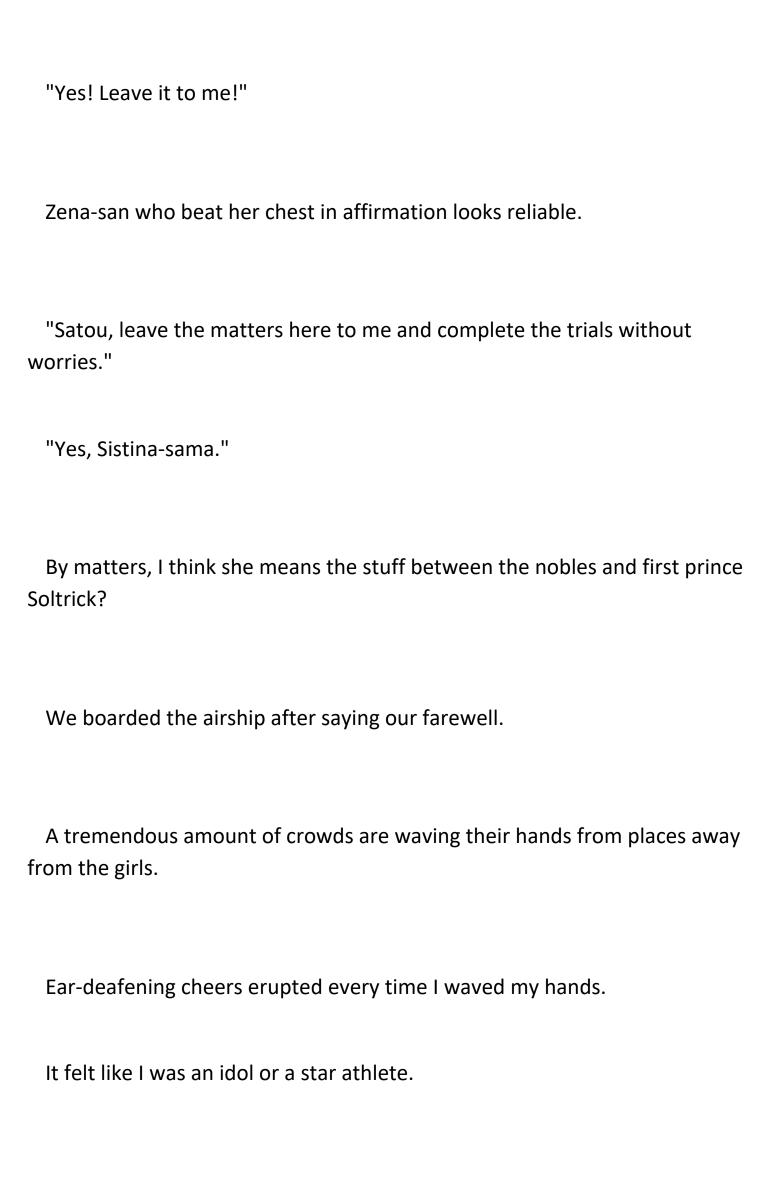
"The matter about Her Highness Maryest's marriage proposal is for after I return from this trip."

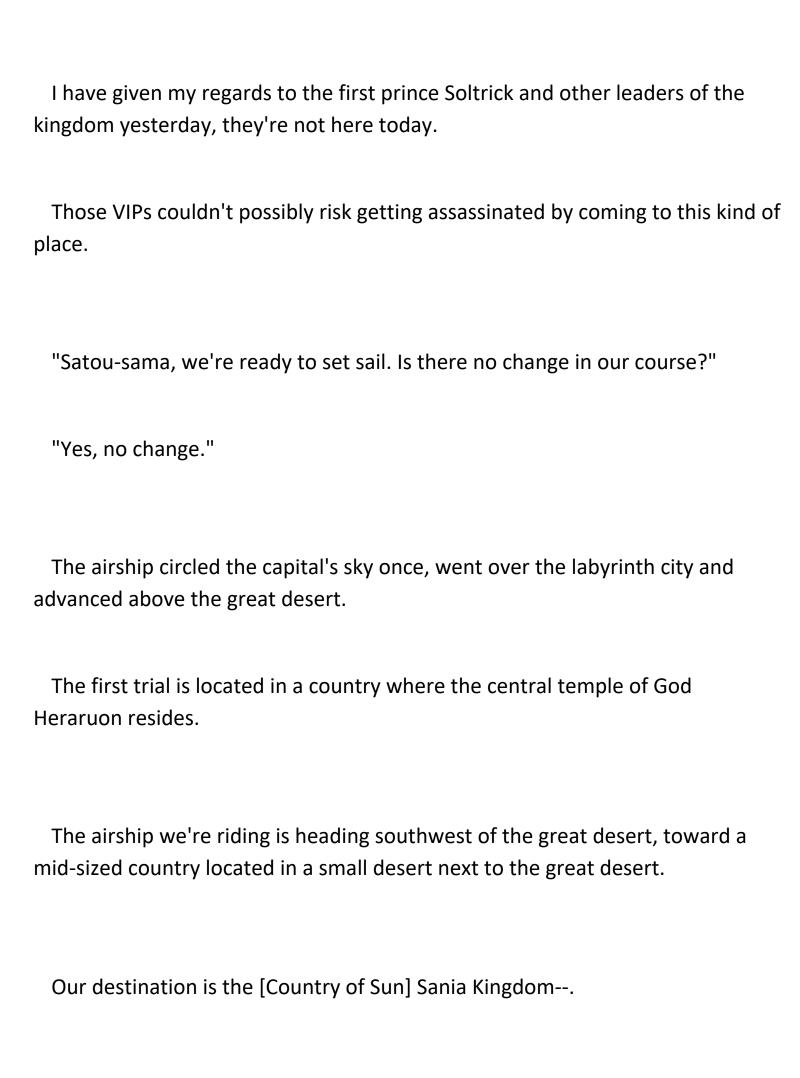
"What, you declined huh. What a waste. Mary might be older than Satou, but she's got a bombshell body even coming from me a woman, you know?"

"Ane-sama!"

I entrust Lady Ringrande who has become emotionally unstable and prone to drink heavily ever since Hayato left to Sera and speaks with other members.

"Zena-san, please take care escorting the children in their commutes."

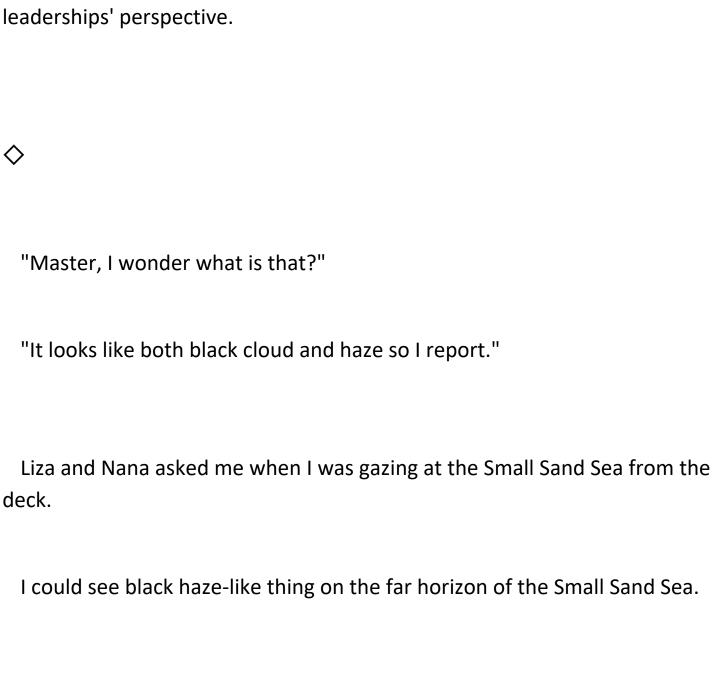




I wonder what kind of country it is, I'm looking forward to it already--.

16-16. To the Country of Sun (1)

Satou here. I think the cause of internal squabbles is rooted on piled-up disgruntlements. Even if it looks a meaningless venting from ordinary citizens' point of view, it might be a policy to prevent the subversion of state from the leaderships' perspective.



I opened the map and checked it out.

"A sandstorm maybe?"

This place is located to the west of the Great Desert where Labyrinth City Selbira is, beyond the southern central mountains, it's a desert where the sand is smooth like water.

It's called Small Sand Sea, but its total area is as vast as three Japanese islands bundled together.

It seems there's a dead dungeon called Sandstorm Labyrinth at the place where the black haze the two found is located.

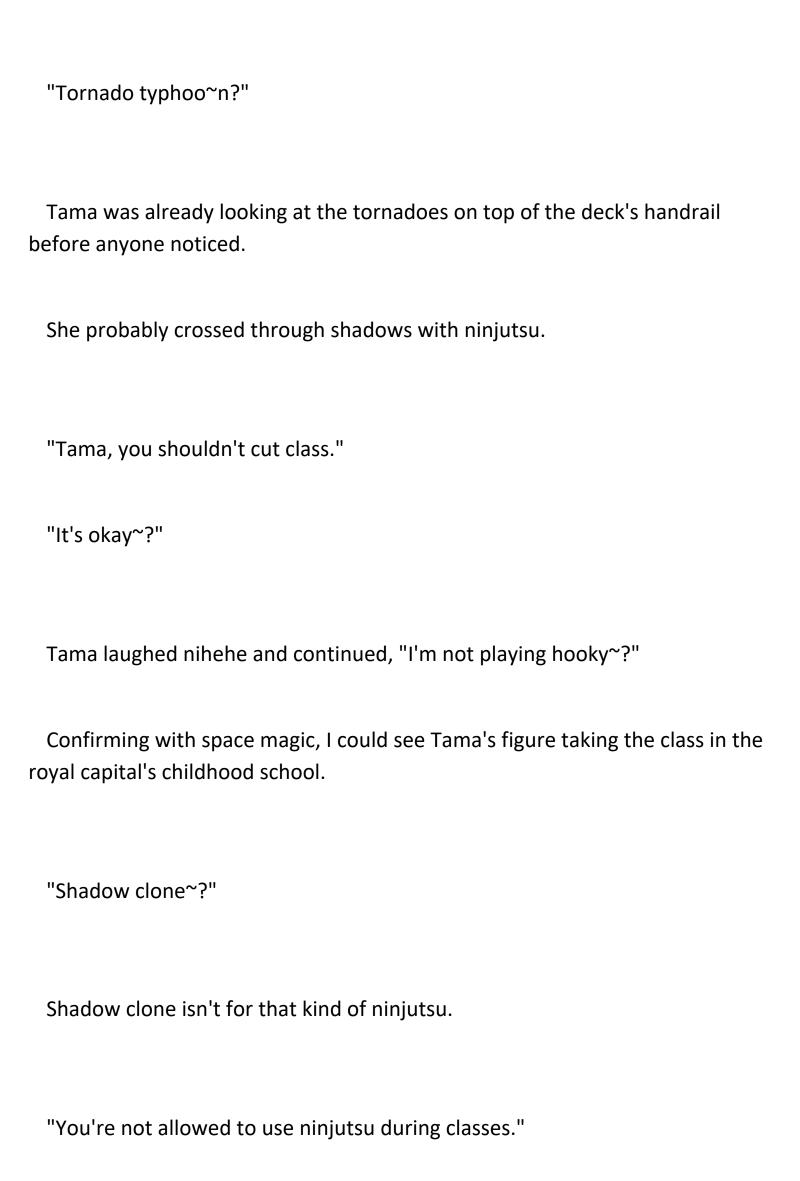
Looking with space magic [Distant View], there are several tornadoes, with the dead dungeon in the center, as if they're protecting it.

This must be the reason it looks like black haze.

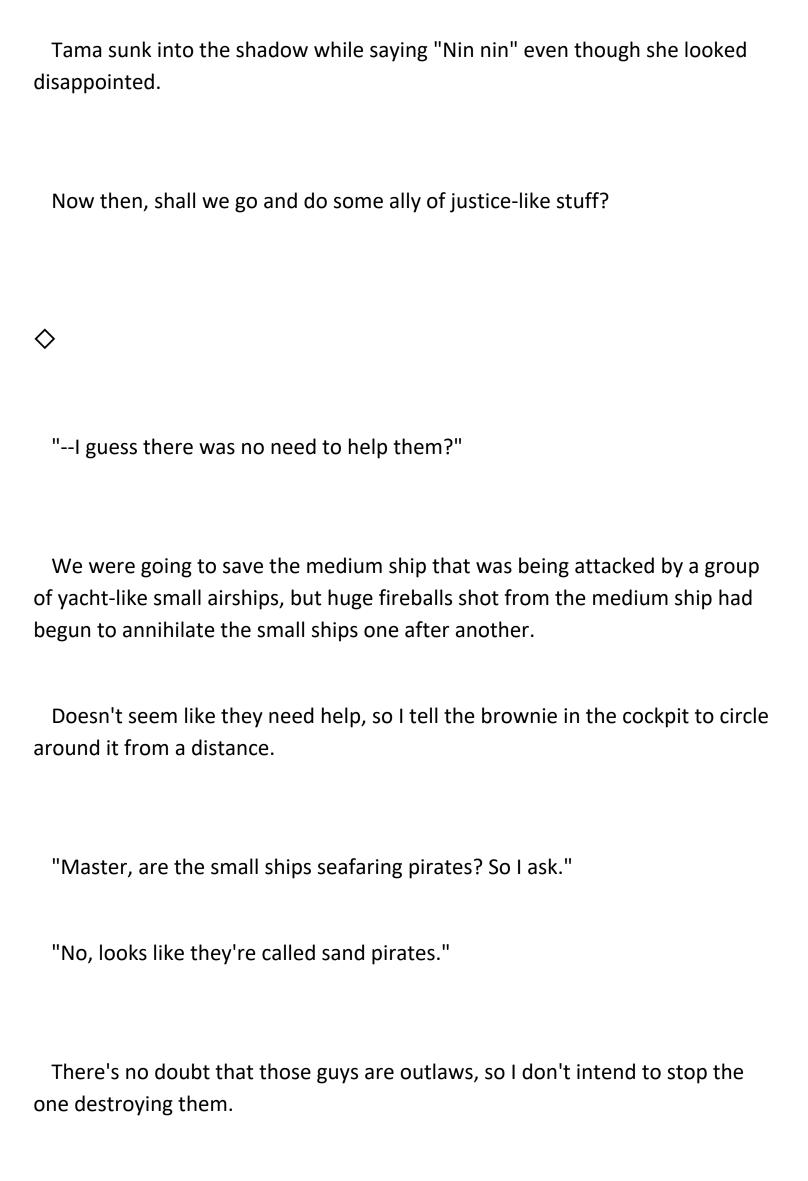
I'm a bit intrigued, let's get the airship near it.

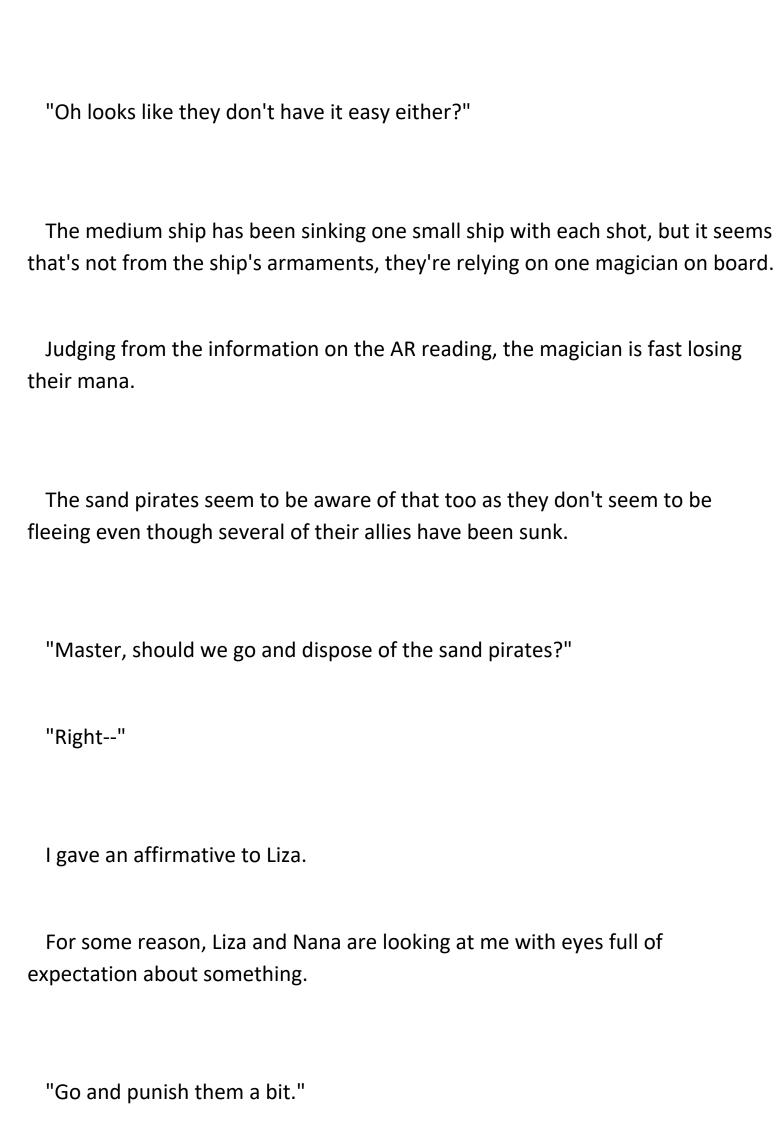
"Looks like it could get dangerous if we got too close to it."

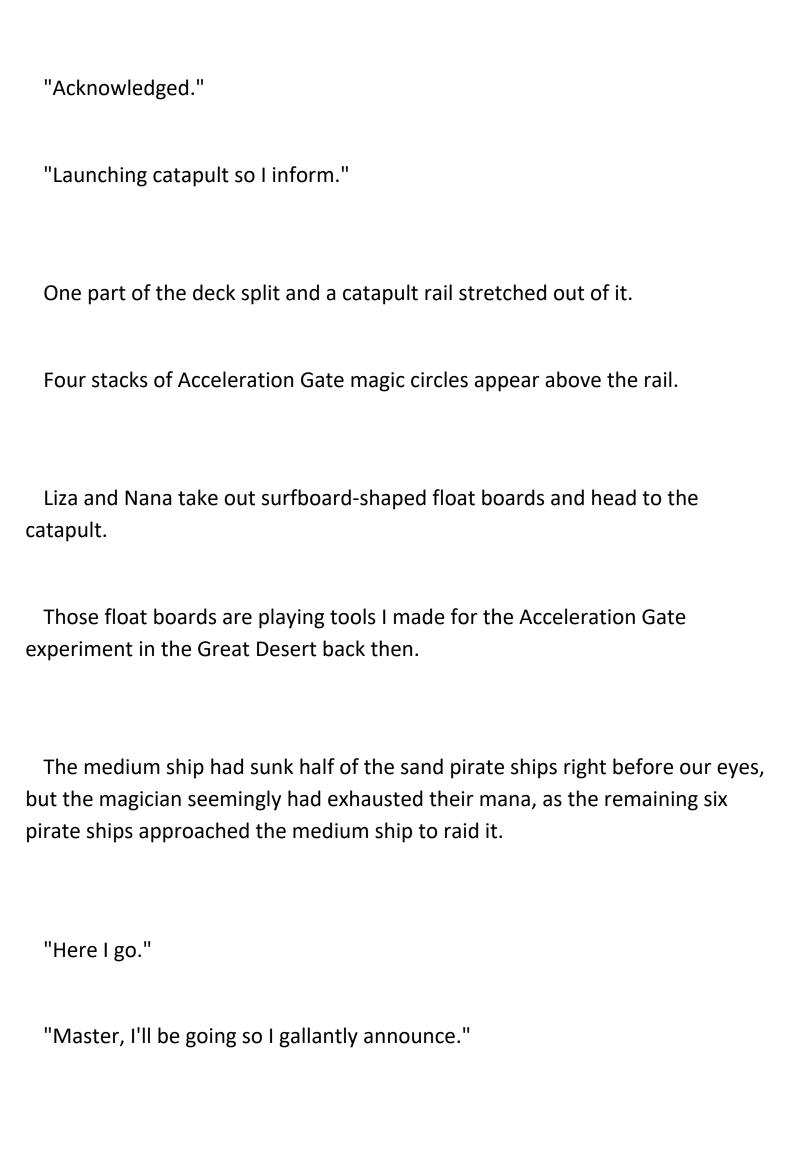
When the airship came to a certain distance, several of the tornadoes approached like they were watchdogs.



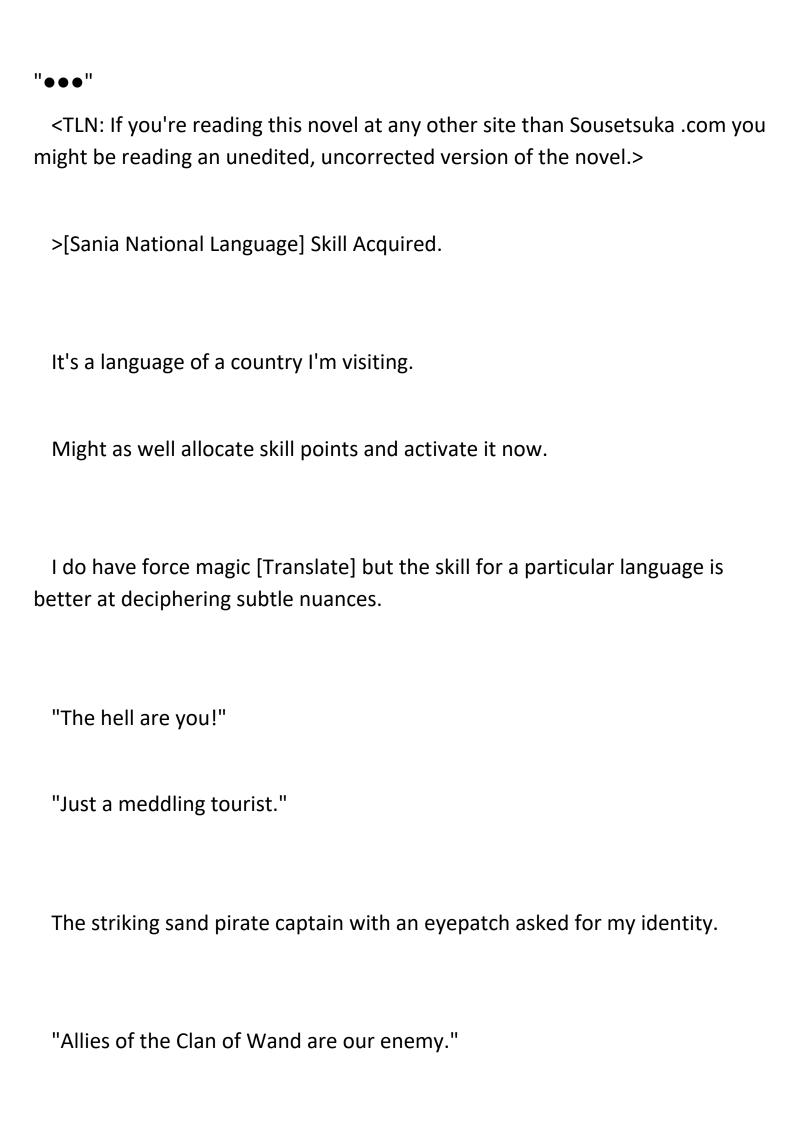


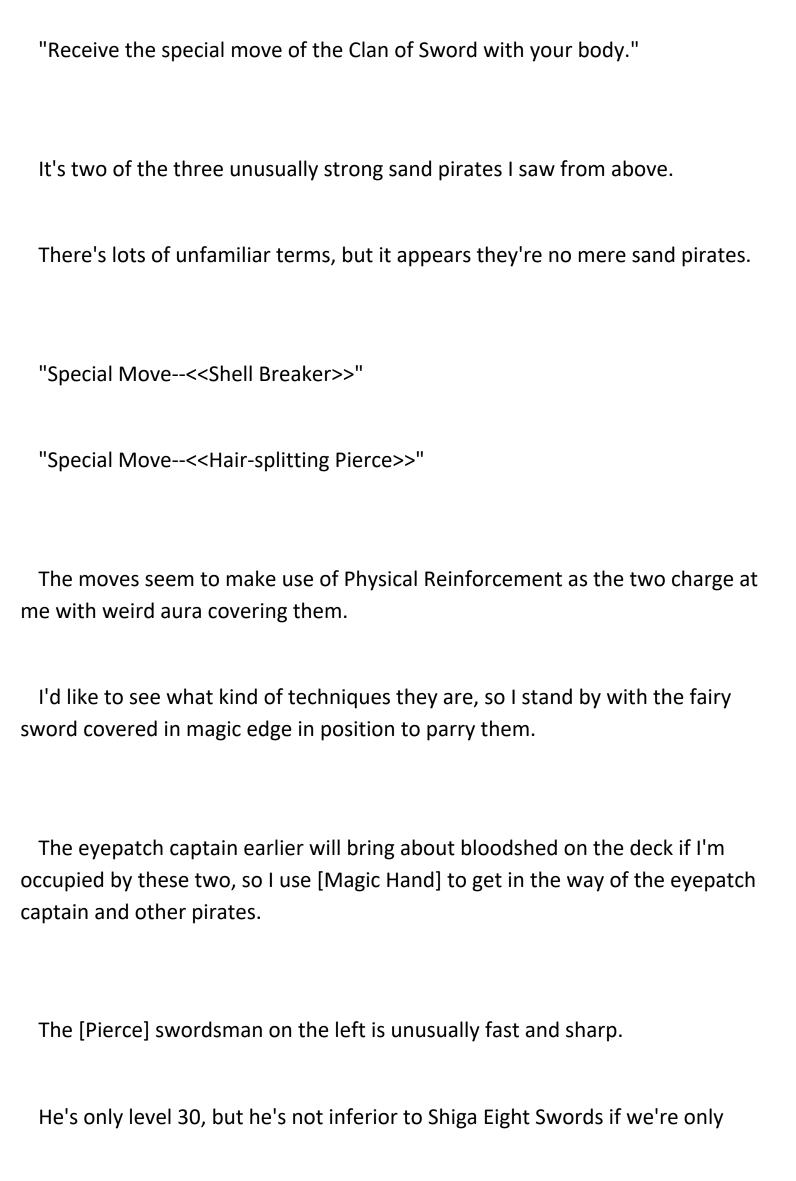




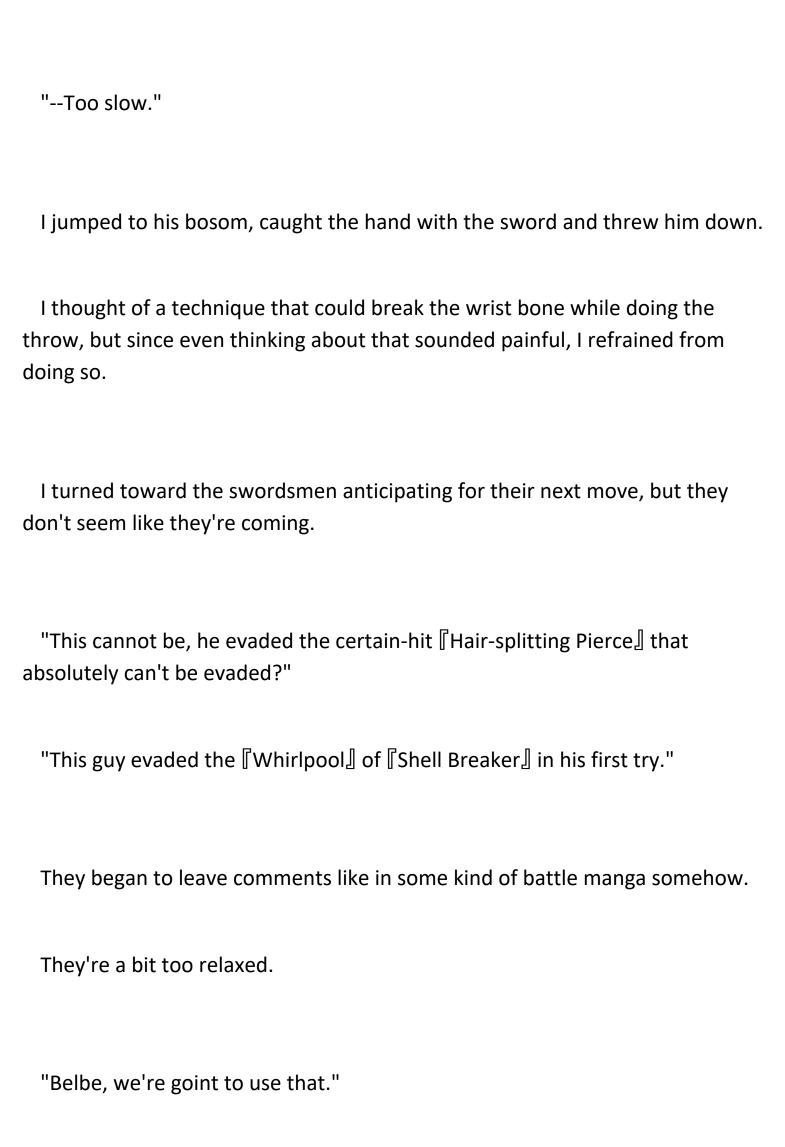


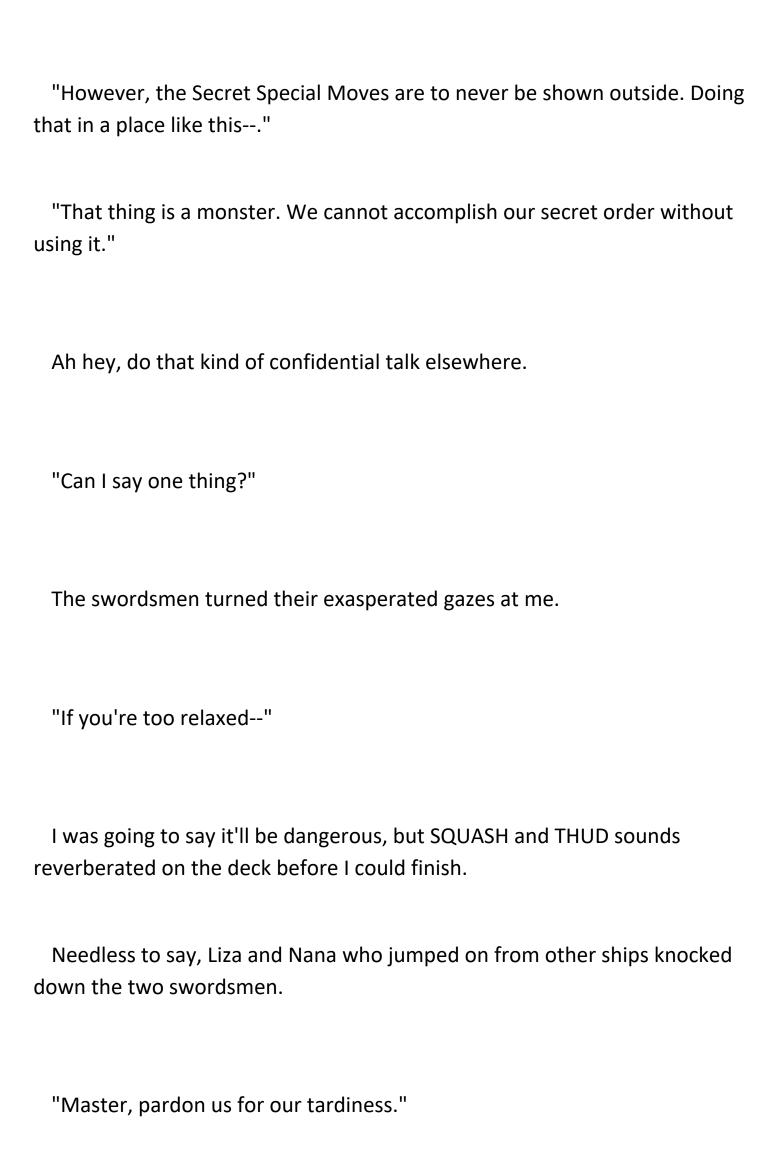
Liza and Nana took off from the catapult, glided with the float boards and landed on the last pirate ship on the line.
Liza's magic spear neutralized the sand pirates one after another, Nana's sword and great shield infringed upon both the pirates and the ships.
"Have the airship pass over the medium sand ship."
"Yes sir~"
I gave an instruction to the brownie pilot and checked the ship from above.
One of the sand pirate ships has successfully gotten next to the medium ship and a battle has already started on board the medium ship.
Among the sand pirates, three of them including the captain are unusually strong.
"I'll be going for a bit."
"Good luck!"
I jumped off onto the medium ship right when the airship passed above it.

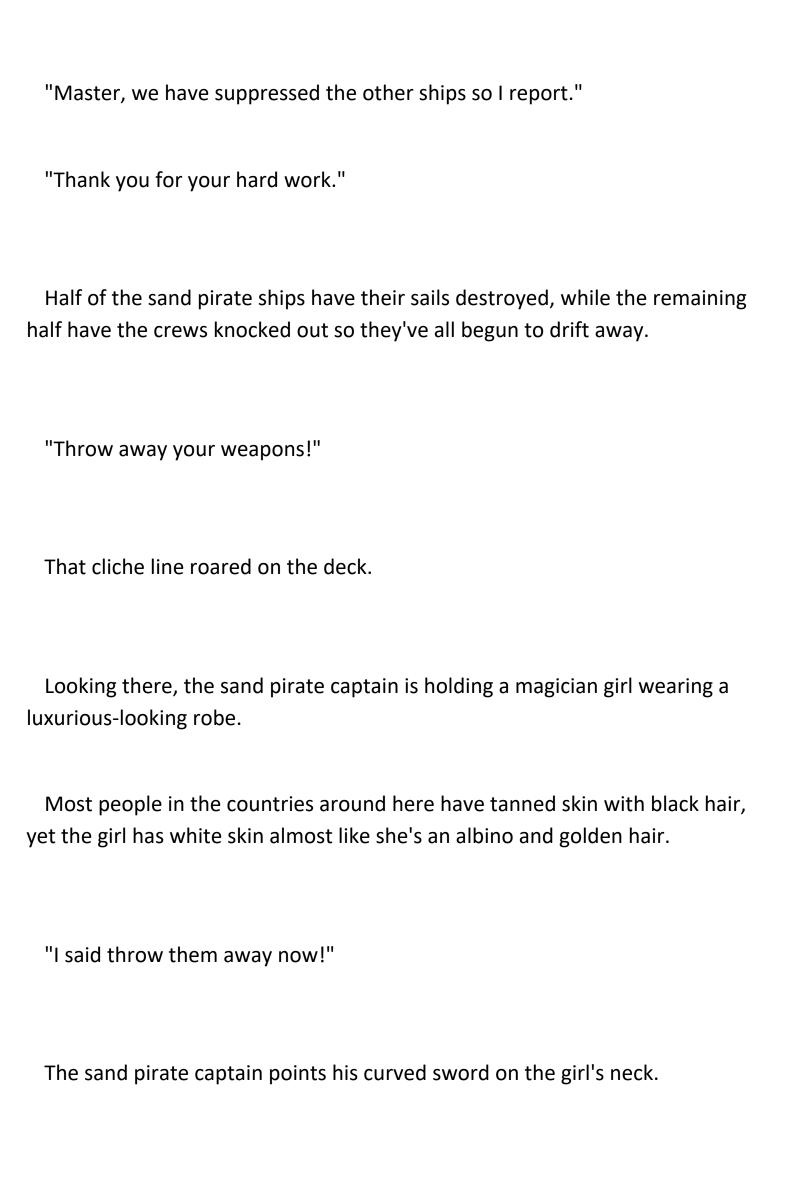




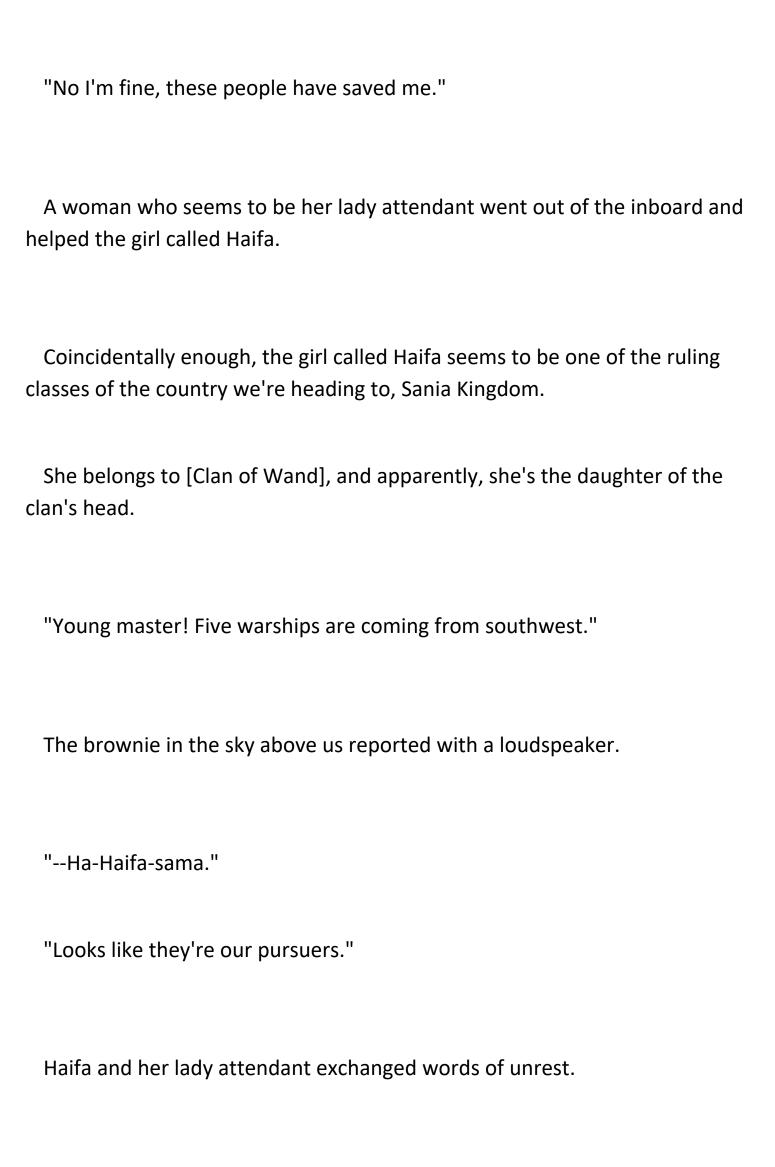


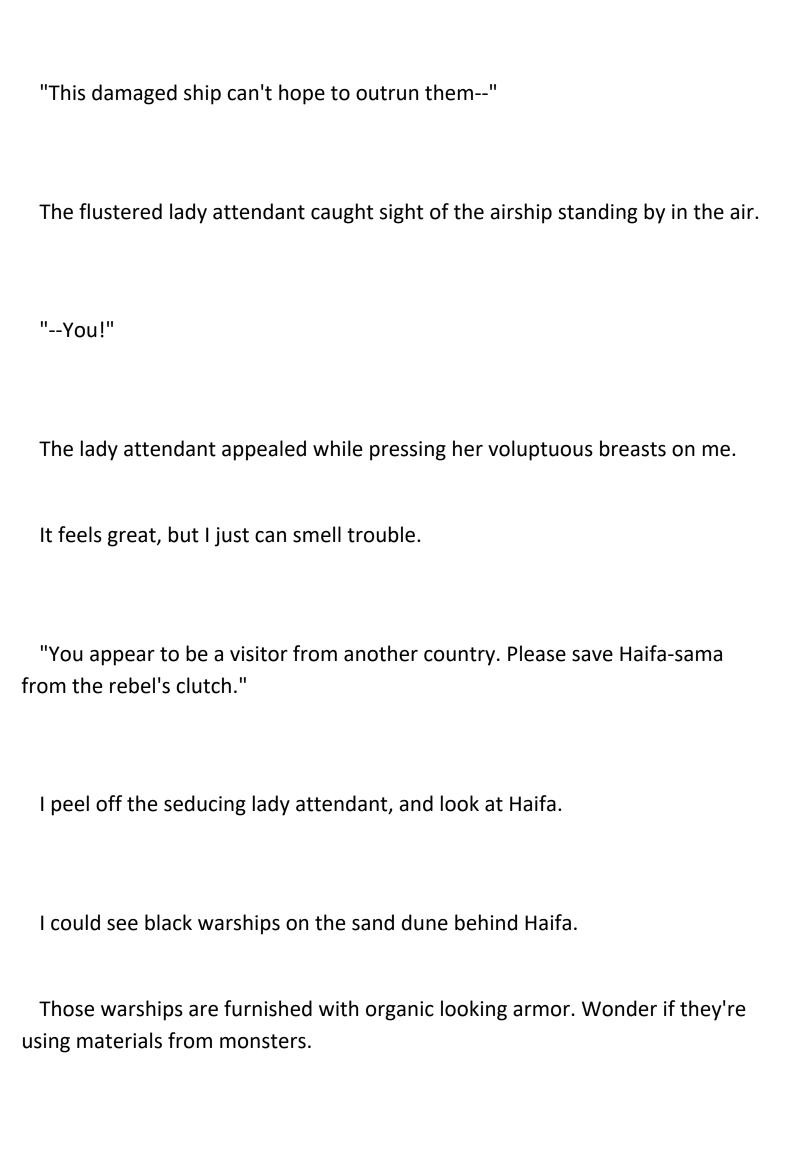










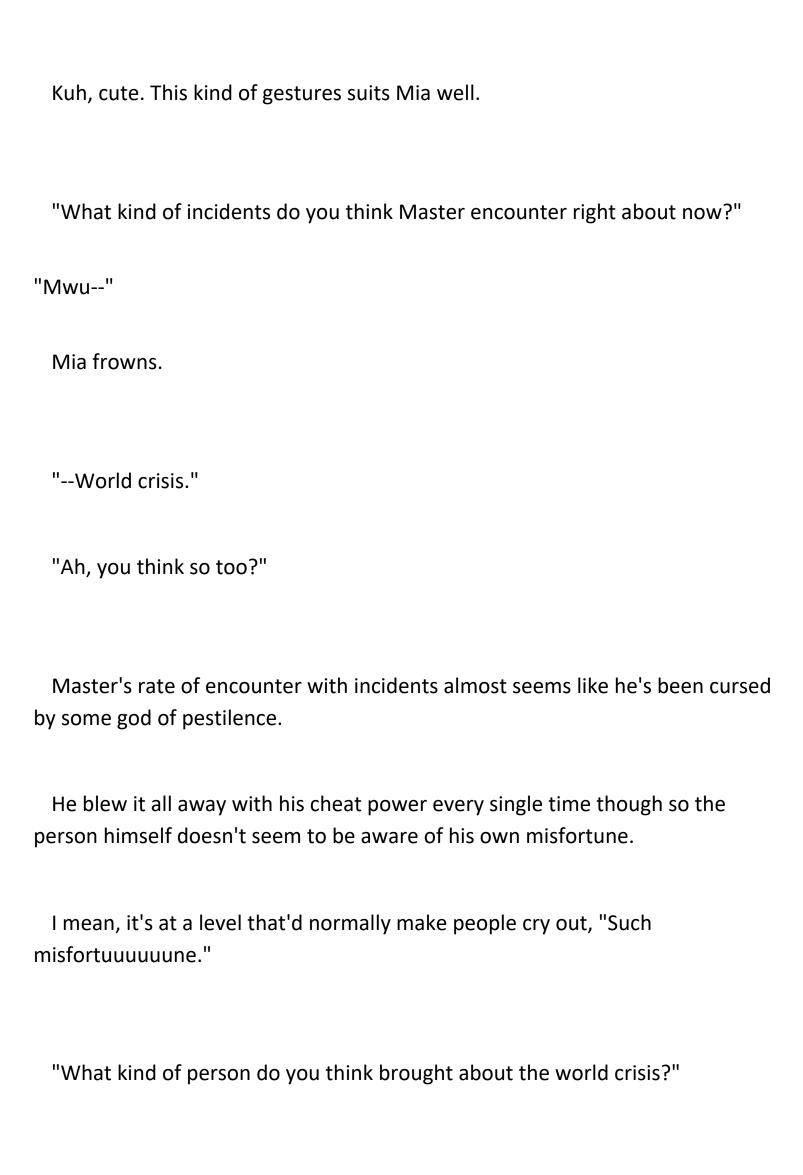


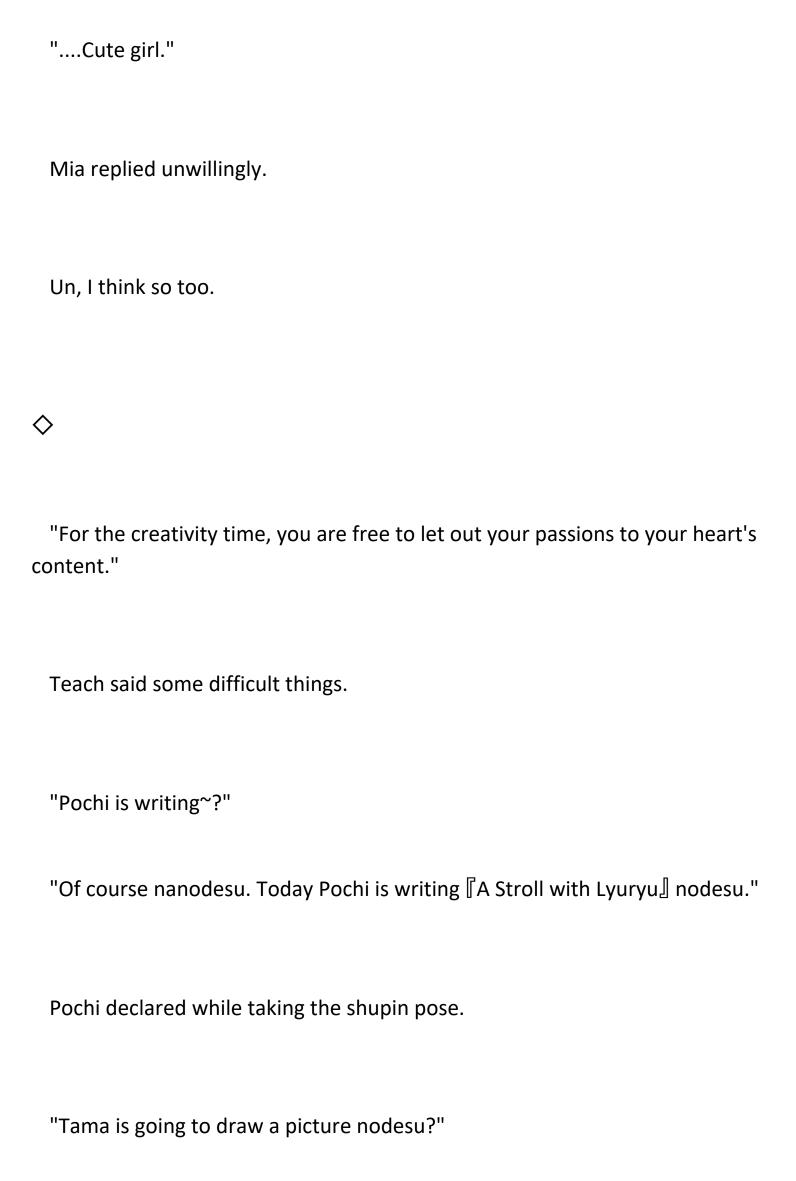
Saving Haifa is trivial, but that's not the problem here.
It's the fact that those ships belong to Sania Kingdom, our destination.
Now then, what to do here.
This can't be one of the imposed trials by the gods, can it?

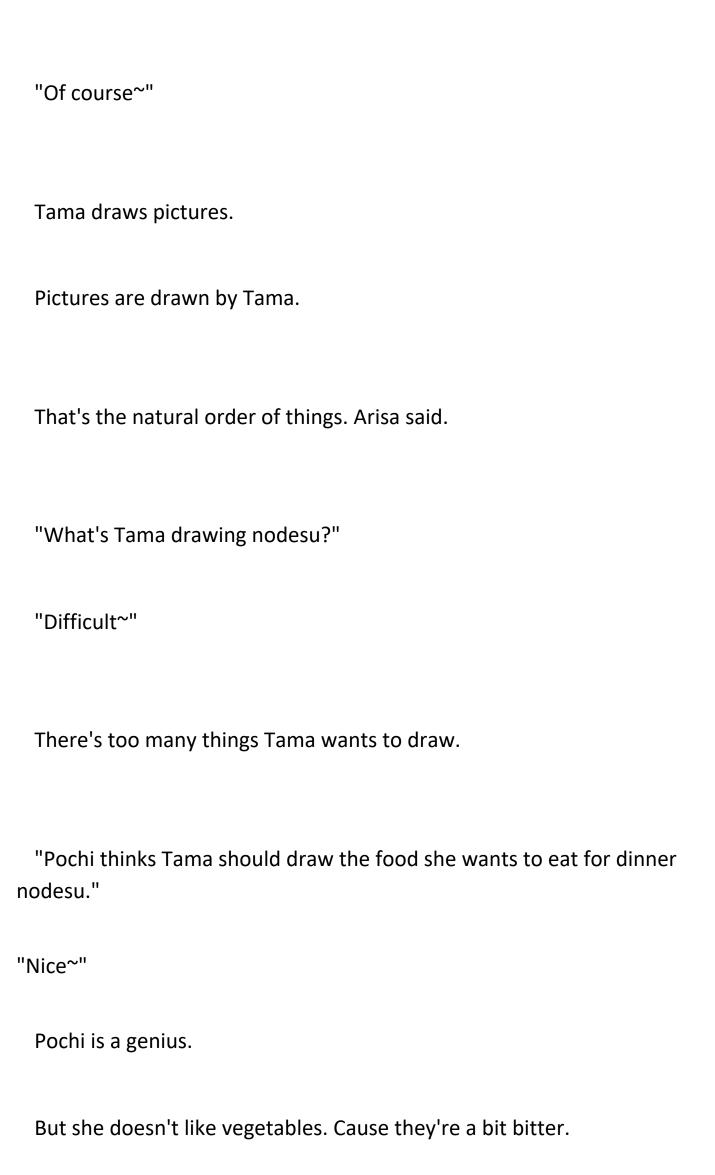
Intermission 1. Royal Capital Then

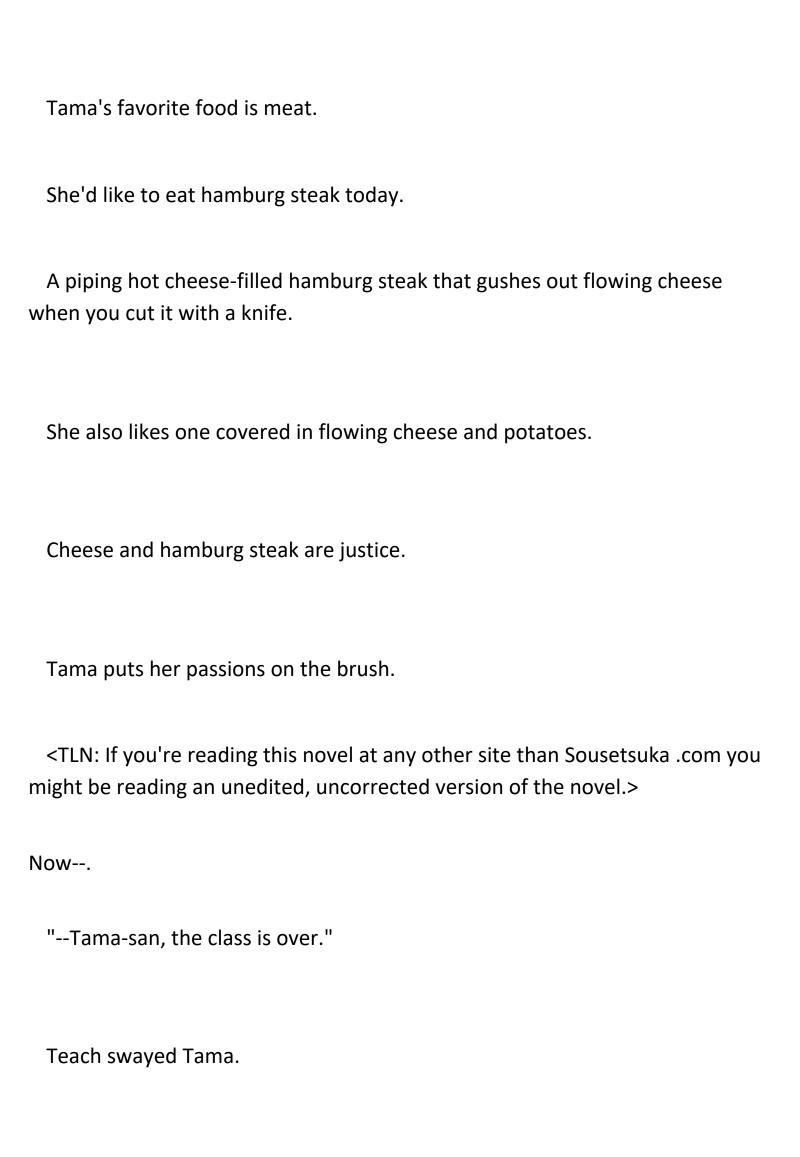


Mia whose mouth was filled with shortcake tilted her head at my question.

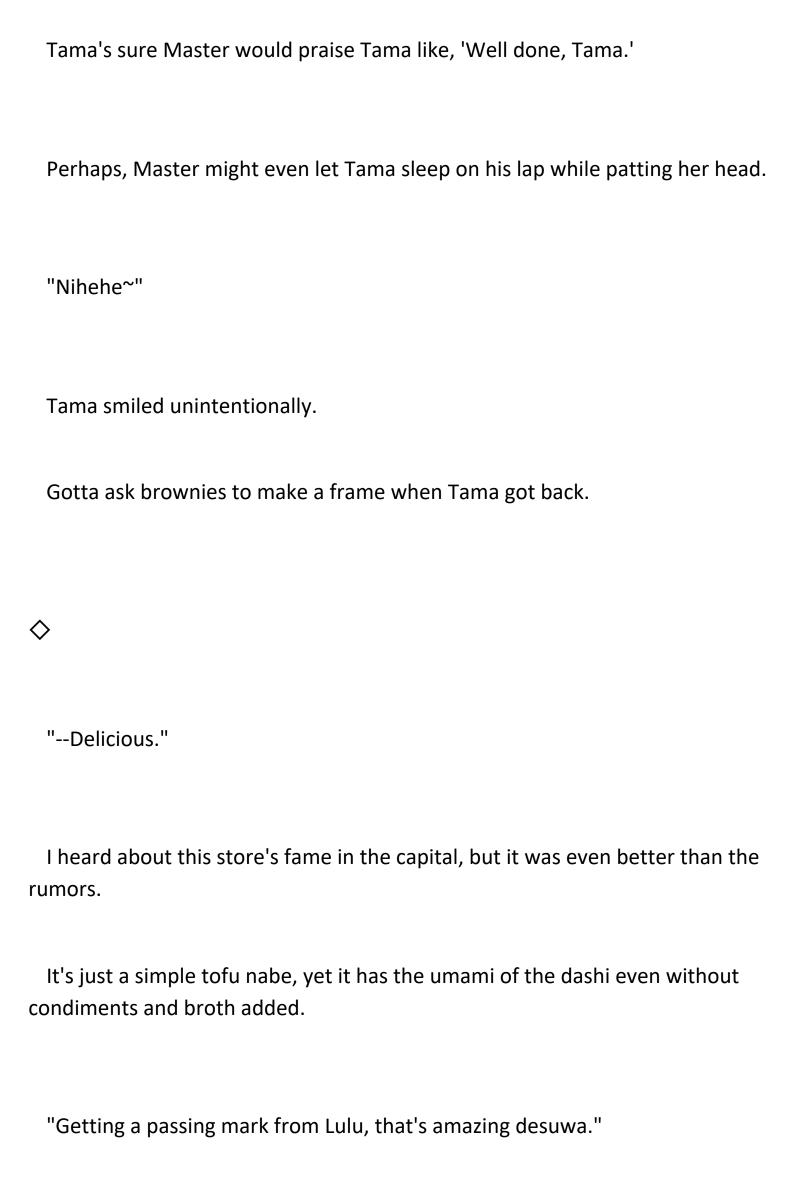




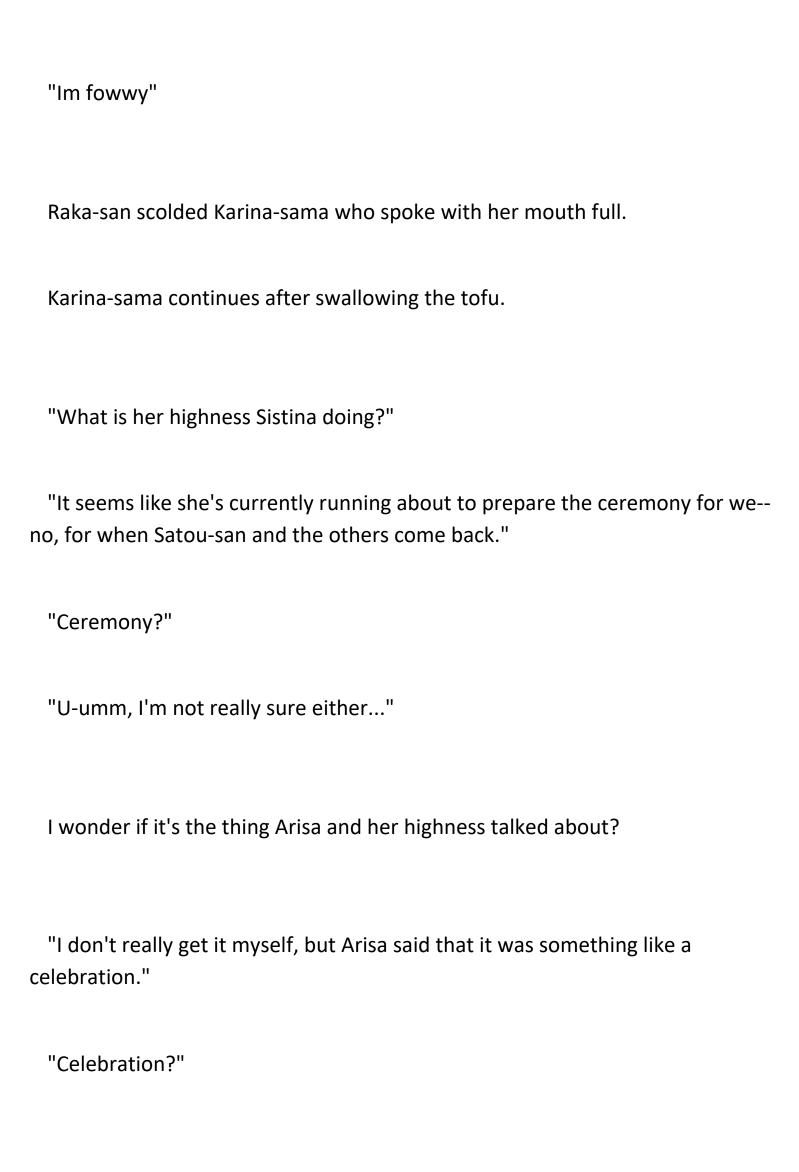




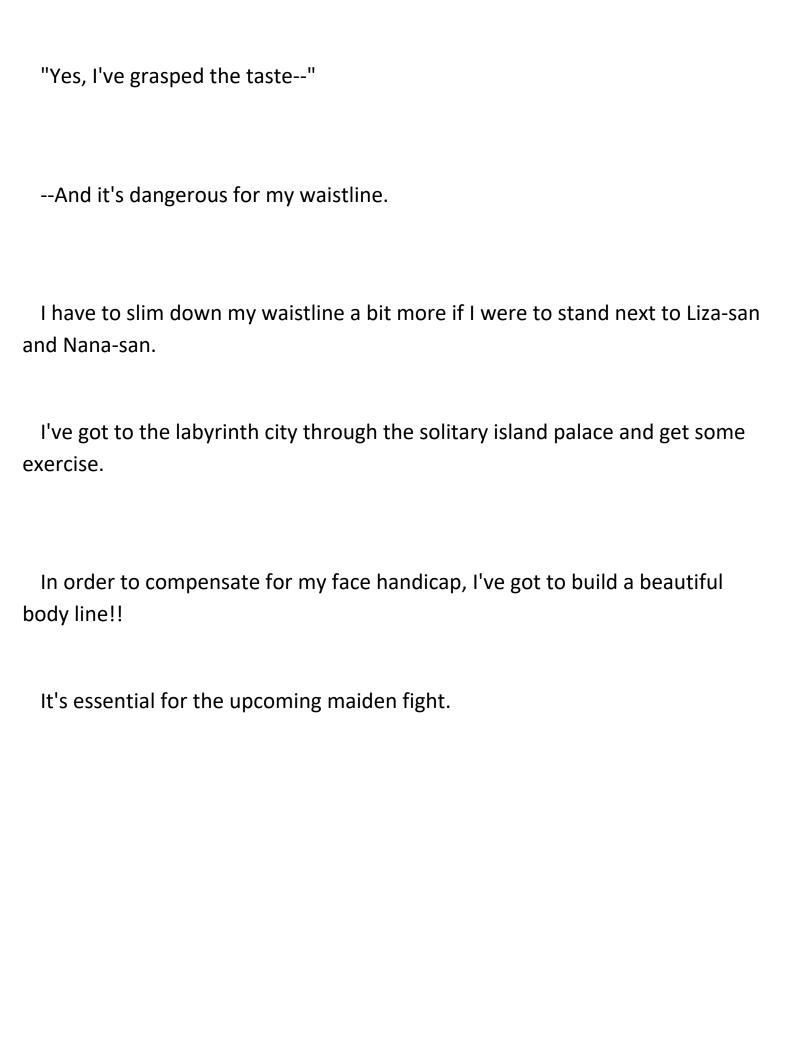












16-17. To the Country of Sun (2)

Satou here. Apparently, internal squabbles have always existed in various era and scales. From my subjective point of view, the way you tactfully handle the aftermath is more important than who the winning side is.



"You referred to them as rebels earlier, however as far as I'm aware, they should belong to Sania Kingdom's army. Did the army revolt and kill the king?"

I urged the daughter of [Clan of Wand]'s head to explain the situation while gazing at the black warships that showed up.

"The king has been tricked. The country cannot be held together without the Cland of Wand yet, he was deceived by the Clan of Sword and threw us the [Clan of Wand] to prison..."

Were they defeated in a political struggle <physically>?

"In other words, were you captured by those guys, you would be [thrown in prison and executed]?"



Haifa shook her head to deny it.

"--Like I said before, the country cannot be held together without us, [Clan of Wand]."

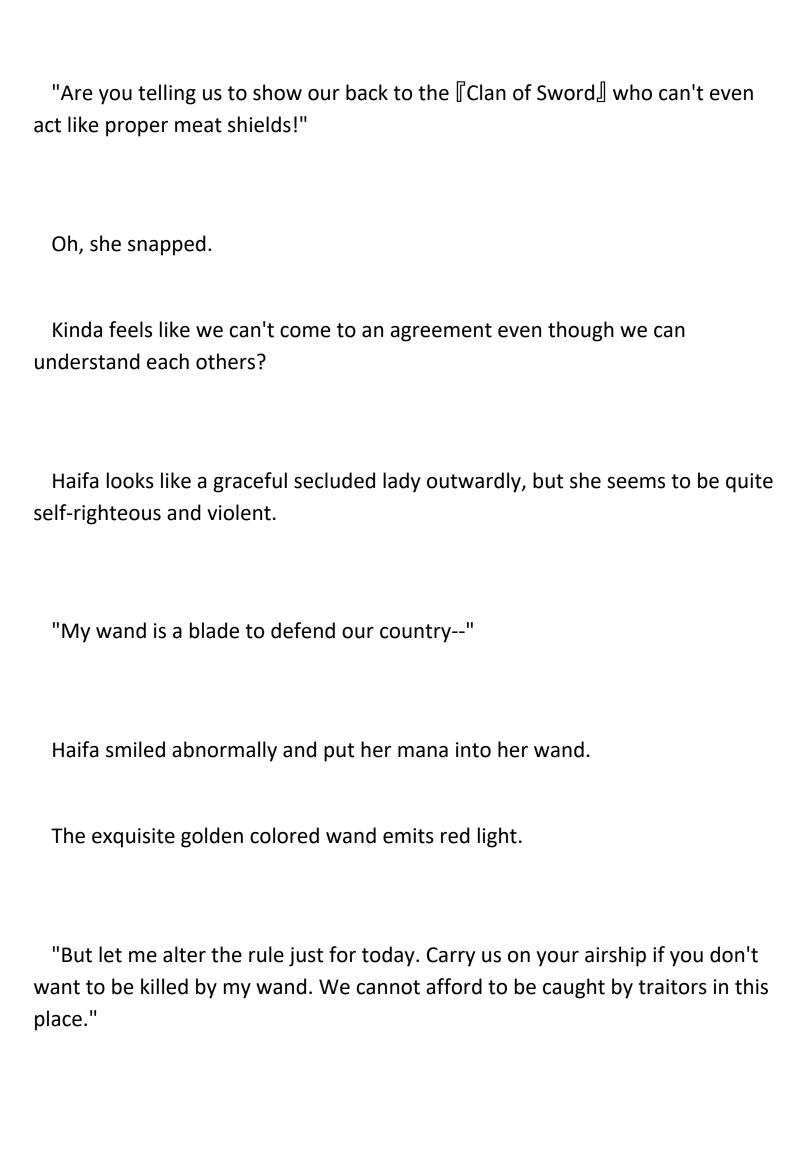
I'm intrigued by why it can't be held together, but since that's not the issue here, I wait for her to continue.

"Thus, they will most likely lock us up in the prison and make us run in battlefields as living weapons. I do not care if the foolish king and the ignorant masses die off even if the country is destroyed, but we cannot go against them because they've held our family hostage."

Okay, I can greatly sympathize with her putting her family first, but her use of words are too intense, it feels like conceit, or rather, haughtiness.

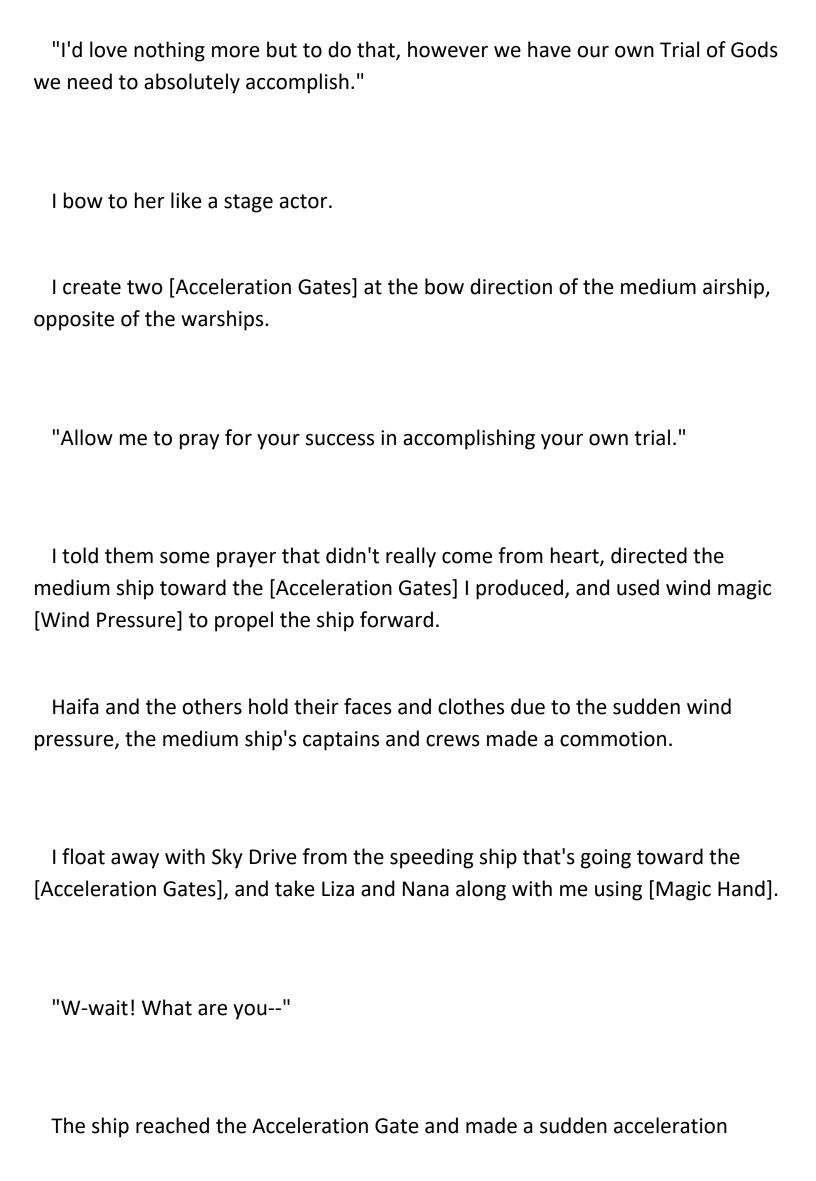
I wonder if this is what you'd become if you were raised with the idea of being the elites?

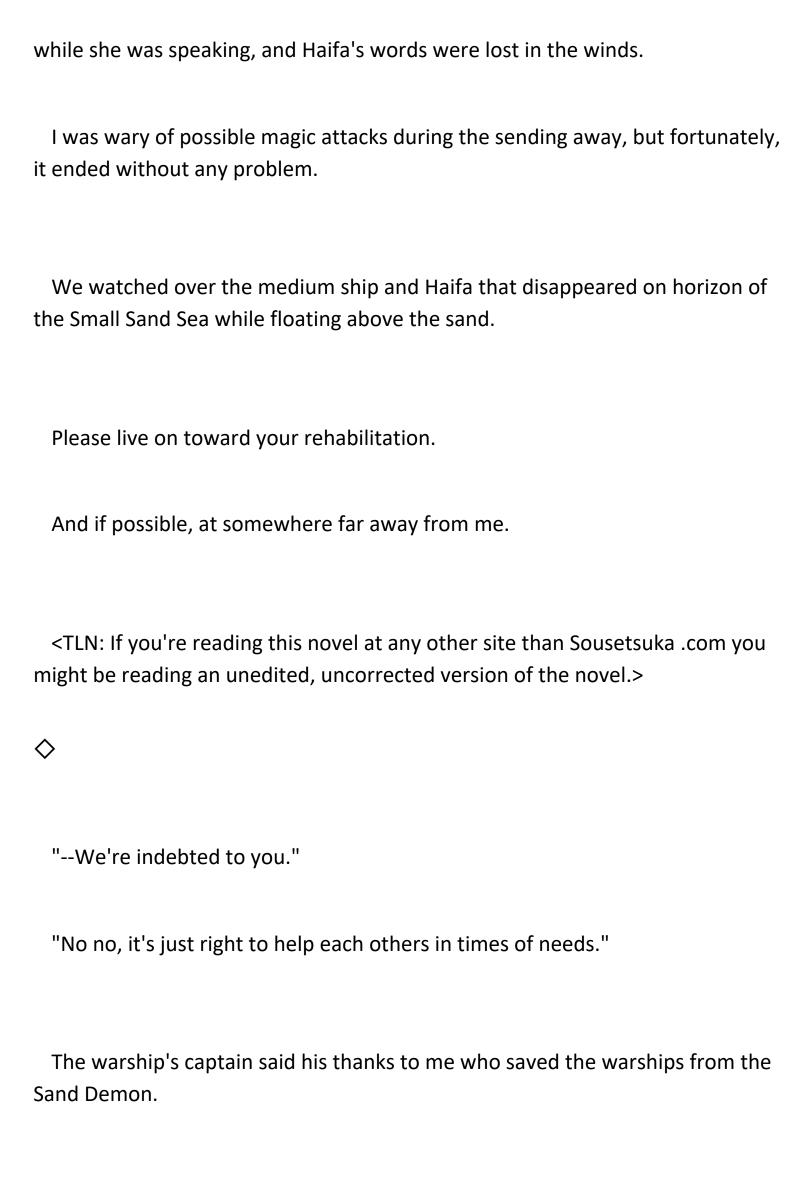
"If you don't care about your country and populace, how about having the [Clan of Wand] run away to a foreign country?"



Now she went with a threat.
Un, let's quickly part ways with her.
Got a feeling that having her around would only lead to piled-up stress.
This would be problematic if it were a trial from gods, but it probably isn't.
I have no intention in the least to ally with them and settle the conflict, however that also doesn't mean that I'm going to hand them over to the warships and let them be used as living weapons, thus I've decided to help them escape.
It's not because I think it's troublesome and want to throw them away somewhere far, not at all.
I pretend that I'll help them escape for now.
"Do you think this is just a threat? I am being serious."
Liza and Nana sent their glances, asking, "Should we seize her?", I gestured them to wait.

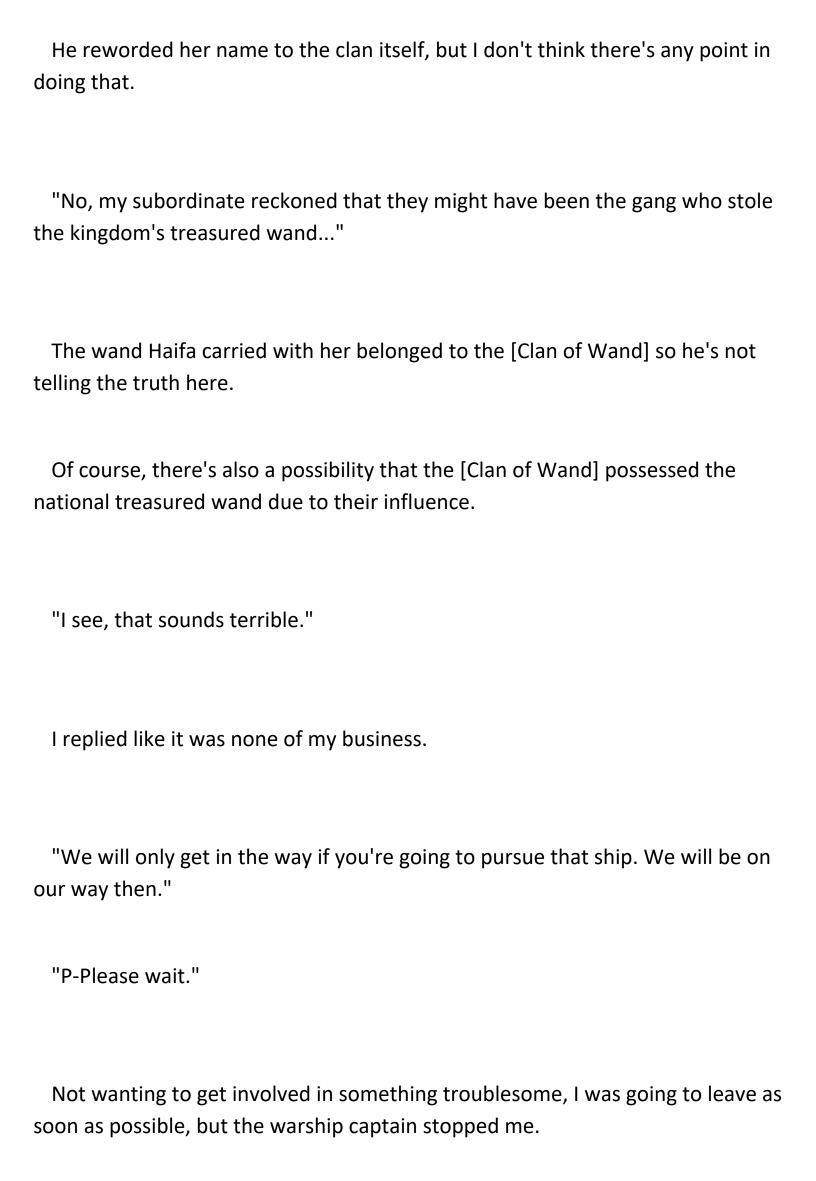


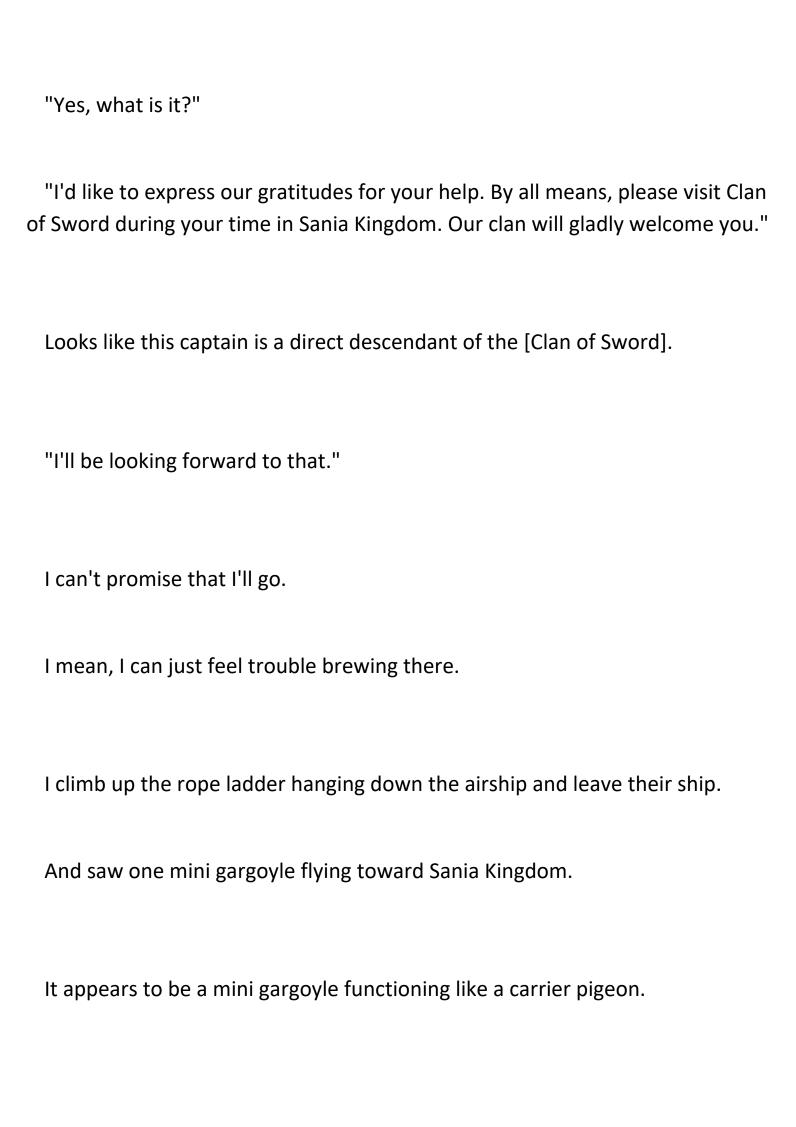




It might seem hypocritical coming from the one who made the situation in the first place, but I couldn't exactly leave warships sinking before my eyes so I intervened.
This warship's captain and officers are wearing Arabian-like clothing.
A crew with sharp-looking eyes whispered something to the captain's ear.
It's the guy who was controlling mini gargoyles awhile ago.
"Your excellency, those drifting ships were the sand pirate where Belbe and the others had snuck in."
"Just as we thought, so where's Belbe and the others?"
"We couldn't find a survivor inside."
"Which means, we should consider that the medium ship earlier had Haifadono on board"
Attentive Ears skill caught their conversation.

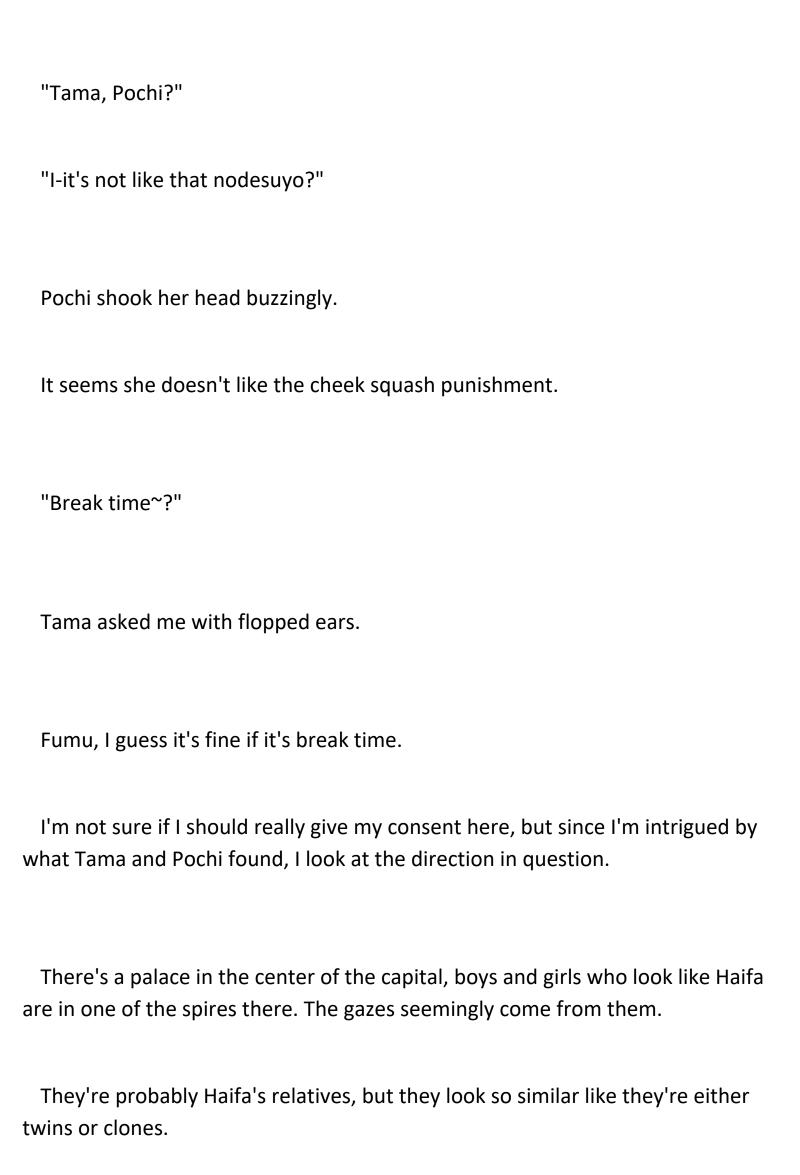
Afterward, the captain turns toward me.
"Earl Pendragon, about the sand ship that was attacked by those sand pirates-
"A girl on board of it wielded her wand, and then they escaped from the Sand Demon with some kind of magic."
She did wield the wand when she insisted to get on our airship, but I'm the one who used the [some kind of magic] part, therefore it's not really lie.
The officer with sharp eyes has God Urion's gift [Eyes of Condemnation] so I'd like to avoid telling lies here.
I don't think the gift is capable of distinguishing lies, but I'm still wary of the intuition of people who have this kind of gift to see through criminals.
"Who'd have thought that Hathe [Clan of Wand] possessed such hidden technique"
"Were they your acquaintances?"
The captain stopped speaking when I asked him.

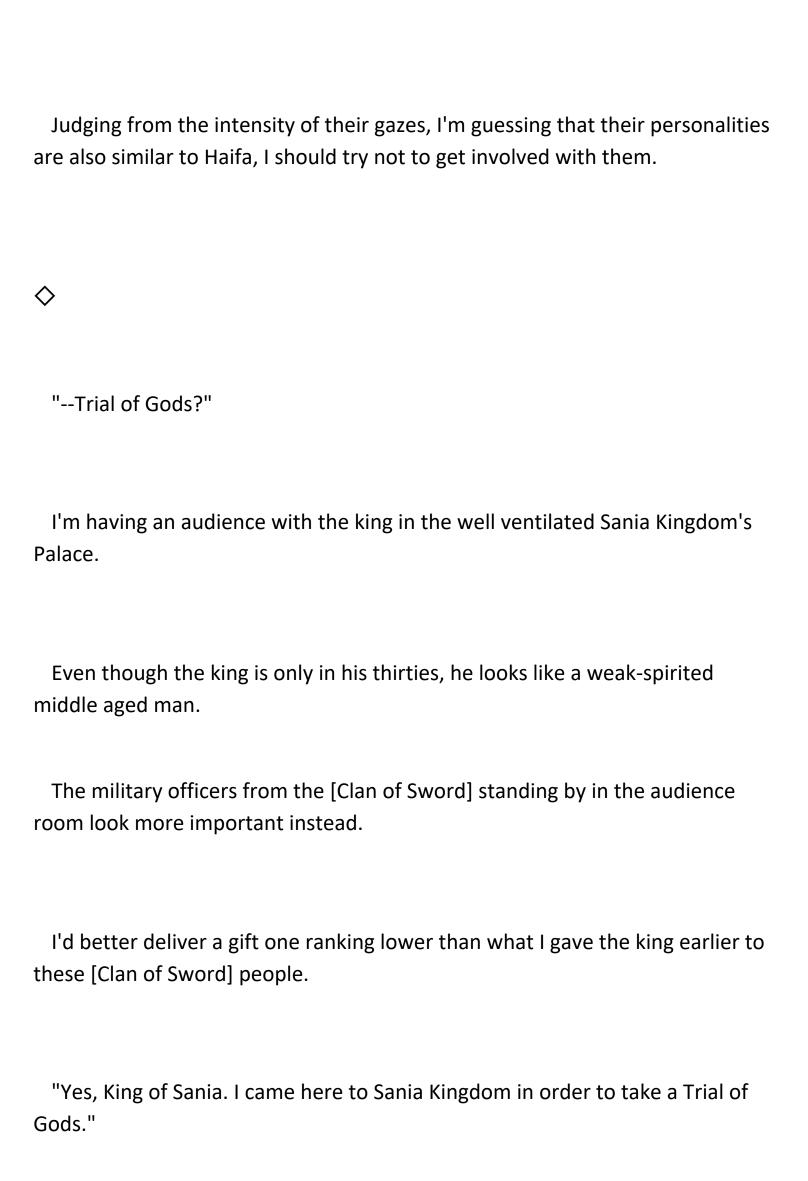


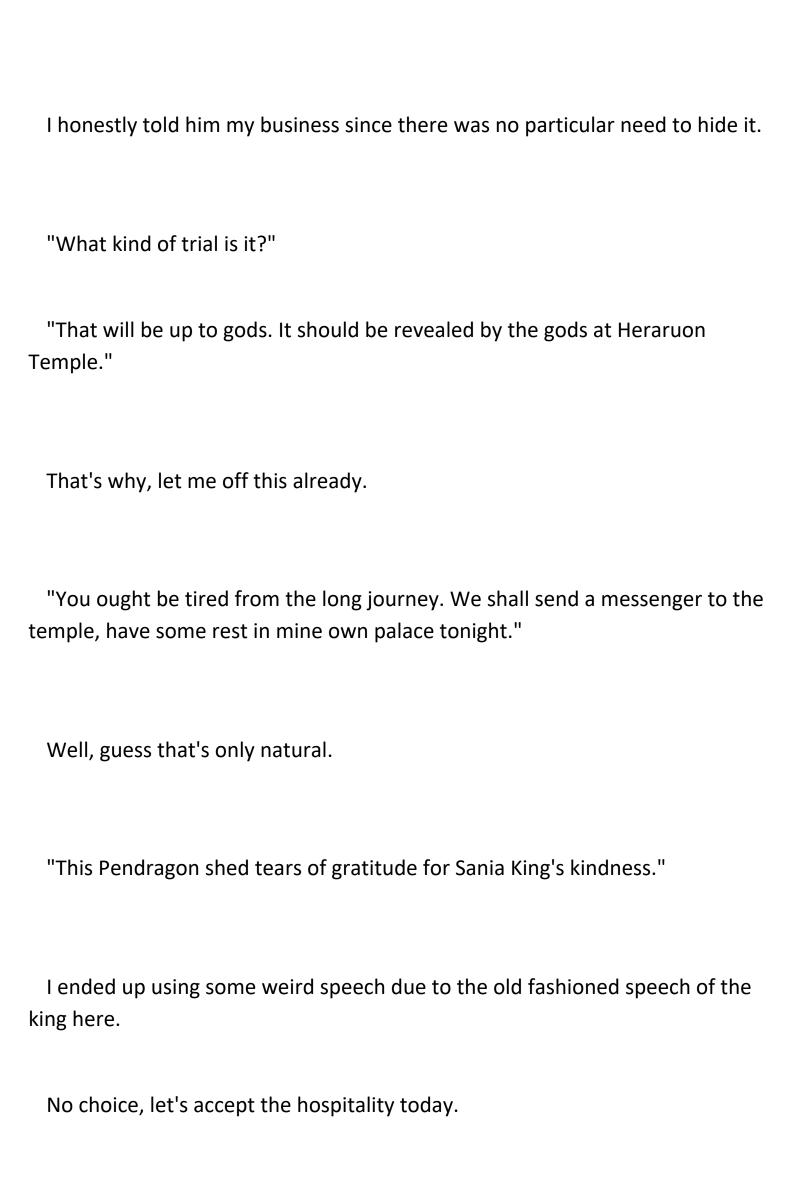


♦
"Master, lots of mushroom houses around, so I report."
"They rather look like snails instead."
Nana's and Liza's impressions are reasonable.
Peculiar shaped buildings are lined up at the royal capital of Sania Kingdom.
"Master, there are flying objects approaching us."
Some men riding on magic tools shaped like flying carpets with legless chairs installed on board are flying toward us.
It looks like a magic carpet, but if I have to say, it looks more like the time machine a certain cat robot from the future rode.
The magic carpets got near the airship and flew parallel to us while gesturing that they weren't hostile.
"We assume that you're Earl Pendragon-sama of Shiga Kingdom. We will be









I just hope that there won't be any weird flag getting raised.

16-18. To the Country of Sun (3)

Satou here. A friend insisted that music has power to stir people emotion. That friend used scenes in anime where the theme song got played, but if I have to say, I think that's just a typical case of insert songs.



Ornaments glittering with magical lights are swaying, those lights are reflected on the oiled dark brown skins, emphasizing captivating body lines.

Moreover, matching the dancing moves, the short thin fabric flutter about, instinctively drawing line of sights to it.

--T'was a sight for sore eyes.

"Are ye enjoying yourself Earl Pendragon."

"I am, King of Sania."

Evening of the audience day with king of Sania, we're being welcomed with a banquet held by the king.

Zabuton-sized cushions are laid out on top of the soft fluffy carpet where we're sitting. Authorities of Sania Kingdom are sitting on the carpet in such a way to create a circle, and dancer-sans are performing a wonderful dance in the center space of the circle. The exposure rate of people in this country is scarce for both men and women, but these girls are practically half-naked, looking sensual. "It's truly a magnificent dance." "Umu, 'tis a traditional art older than our country itself." --Hohou. What a wonderful culture. "The temple folks scorn it, vulgar they say, but it is nothing to be ashamed about."

As expected of the bearer of the hidden titles, [Cultural Guardian] and [Mentor of Traditional Art].

moment.

Sania king left a weak impression on me, but he looked a bit cool at this

 Η	m	?

Cheers erupted at the opposite side of the circle where the [Clan of Sword] gathered.

It doesn't look good, like they're drunk.

"Get out of the way! This great me will show you the real thing."

A huge man carrying a largish scimitar went to the center of the stage, and drove the dancers away.

--What savagery!

My indignation seemed to have leaked through the impenetrable defense of Poker Face-sensei skill, several of the [Clan of Sword] people sitting on the opposite side got hit by the [Coercion] skill and got knocked out.

Would have been nice if the the savage drunk idiot-kun also got hit, but he got off it since it was just right when I turned my gaze aside.

Idiot-kun threw away his coat, drew his sword and began to dance.



The ma	aster swordsm	nan's dance as	ide, the mus	ical performan	ice is exotic and
worth lis	tening to.				

This tune must be originally for raising fighting spirit though.

Seeing me not reacting, the master swordsman stopped during the music interlude and walked toward me while smiling ferociously.

Forgetting the drawn sword aside, please stop staring at me with sweat all over your muscled body while breathing roughly.

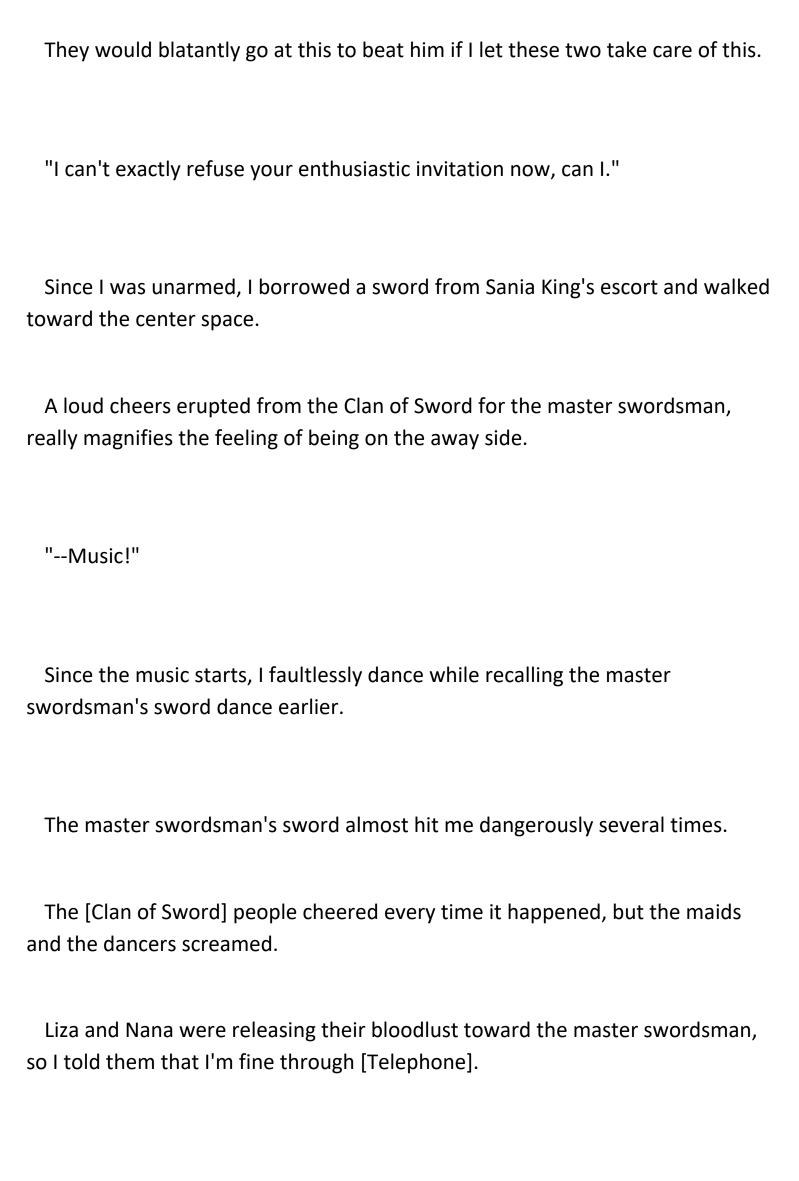
"I hear that Demon Slayer-dono is also an expert swordsman. Shall we dedicate a dance to Gods together?"

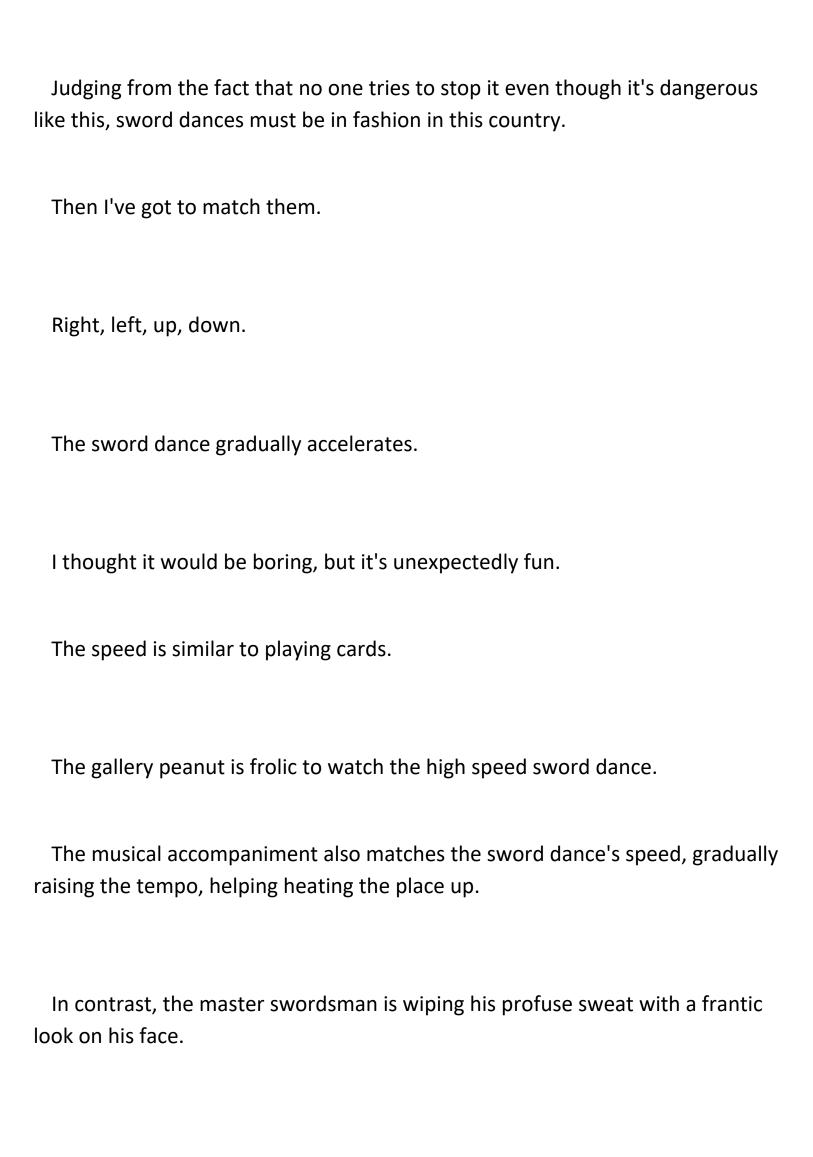
Is he talking about sword dance thing?

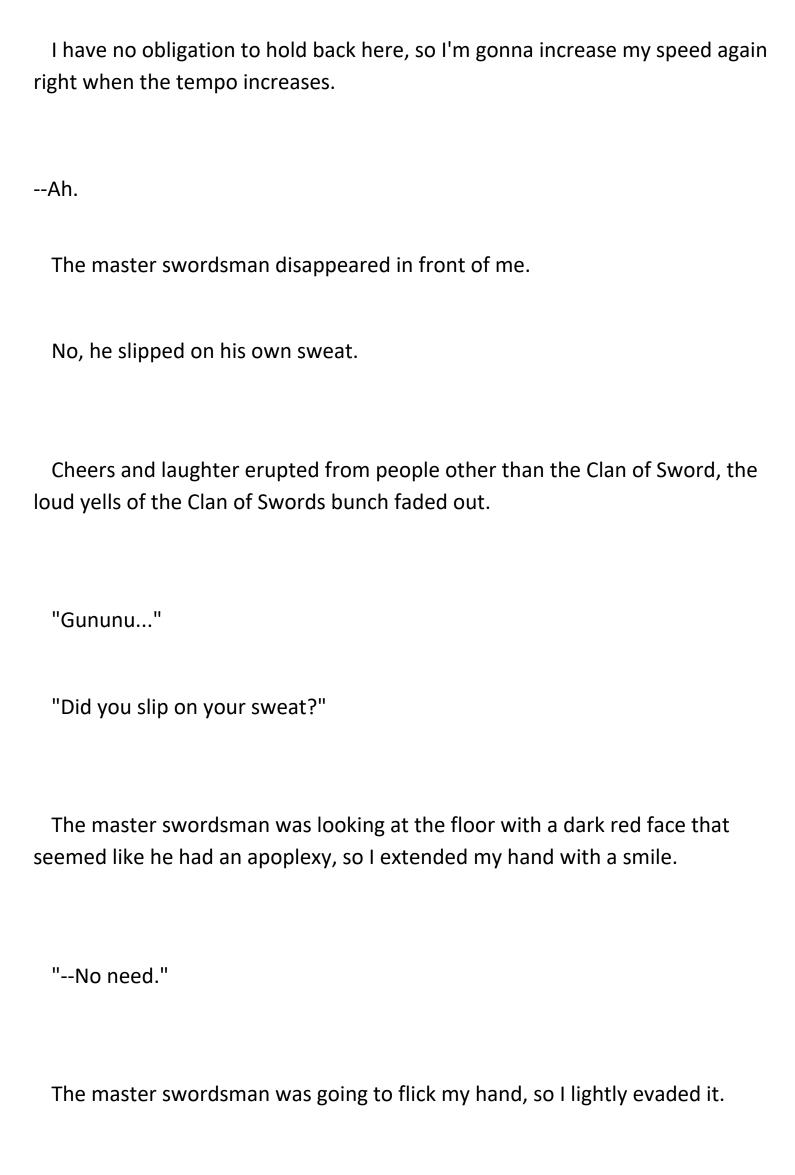
I'd gladly become a dancing partner if the other party is a beautiful female swordsman, but not really when it's a muscled daruma.

"Or maybe you're scared to expose yourself before my sword even in a performance?"









The master swordsman whose face got even more redder left the place whi	ile
perking his shoulders.	

His career would have been over if this were in Shiga Kingdom, but it seems to be no problem in this country as no one is criticizing him. Even the Sania King.

No, Sania King is flapping his mouth open and close with a pale face, so it might have been rude by this country's standard too.

"Cheers for Earl Pendragon-sama's wonderful sword dance!"

When a close aide of the Sania King shouted that, the remaining officials and singers gave their applauses.

Immediately after, a bright tune got played and the dancers who were chased away earlier resumed their lovely dance.

This Sania Kingdom has a lot of problem but it appears that there are some tactful people left here.

"Earl-sama, that was a terrific sword dance."

"I'd love to hear about your demon lord slaying saga."

By the close aide's instructions, beautiful women and girls in dancer outfits approached me and poured drink while being glued close to me.

It's a cheap way to entertain someone, but these girls have no sin, so I let myself to be entertained.

After enjoying a soft and fluffy moment and drinking a lot, the pale faced Sania King left his seat, thus I also left the banquet.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

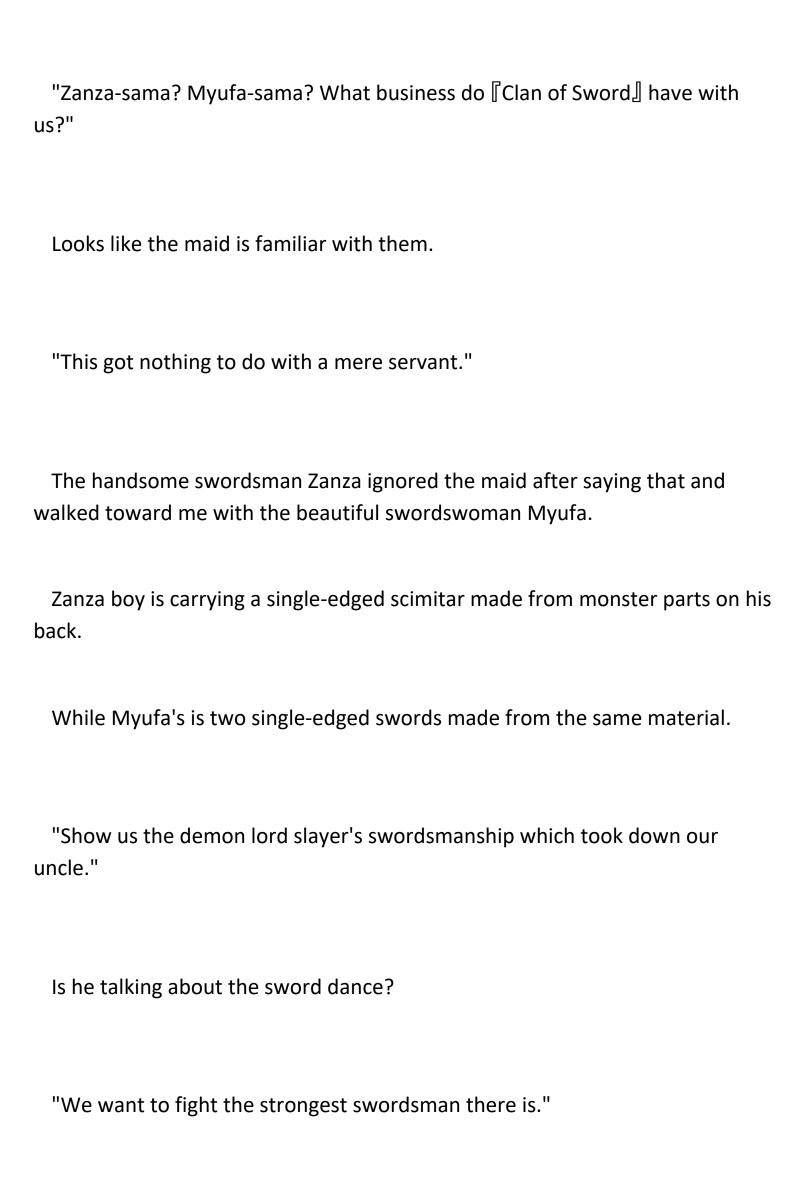
"This is a splendid garden."

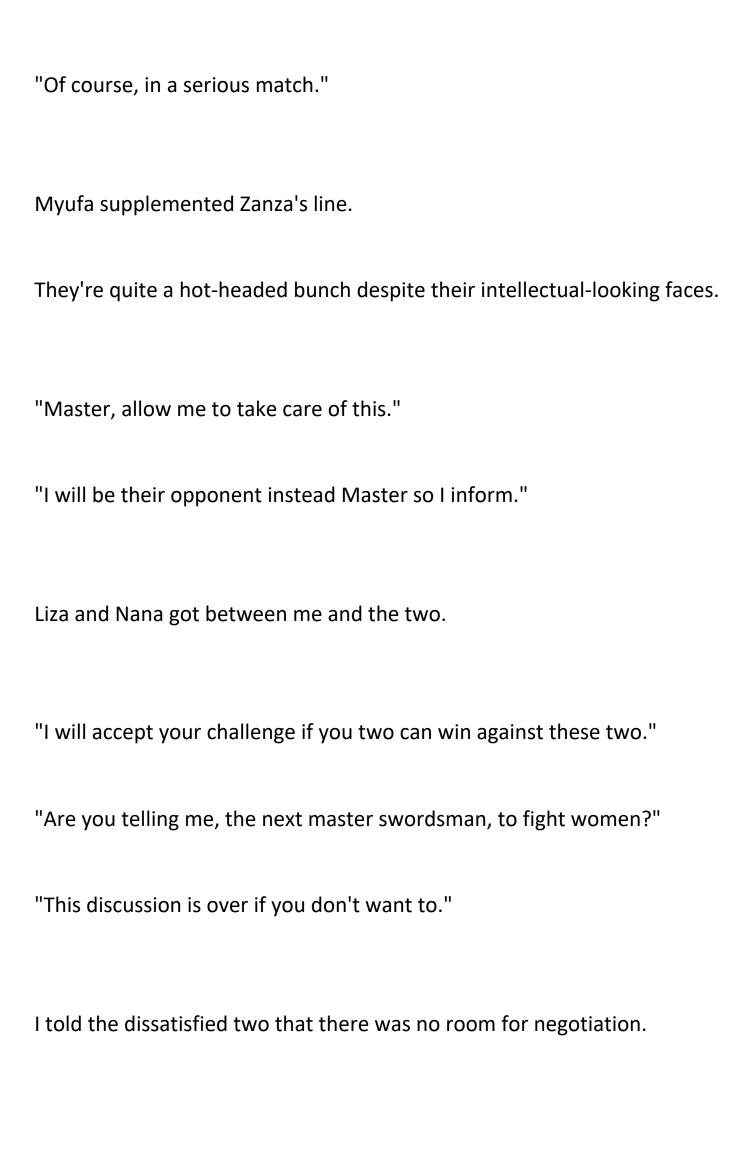
"Yes, this was relocated from the capital at the end of Furu Empire."

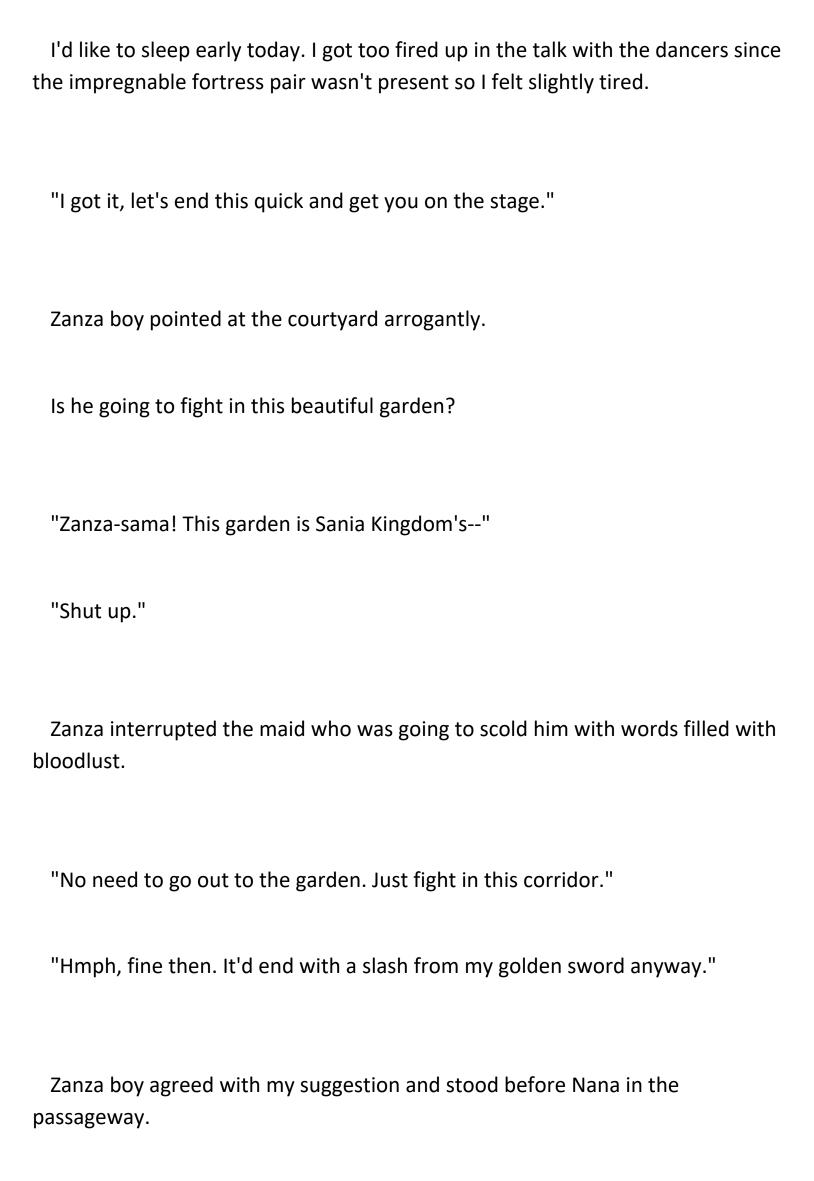
I stare at the southern paradise-like garden filled with blooming flowers as we walk in the passageway adorned with relief.

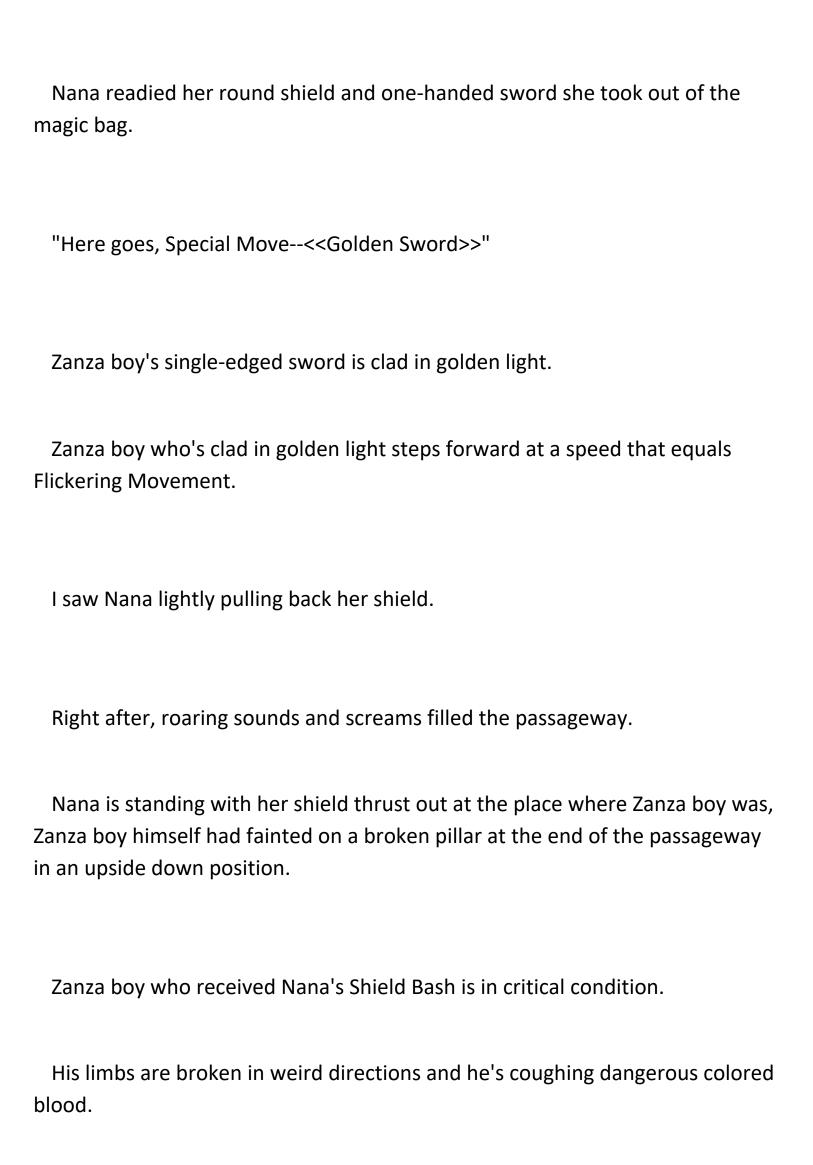
I wanted to enjoy the exquisite courtyard a bit more, but it seems that you can find uncouth people everywhere.

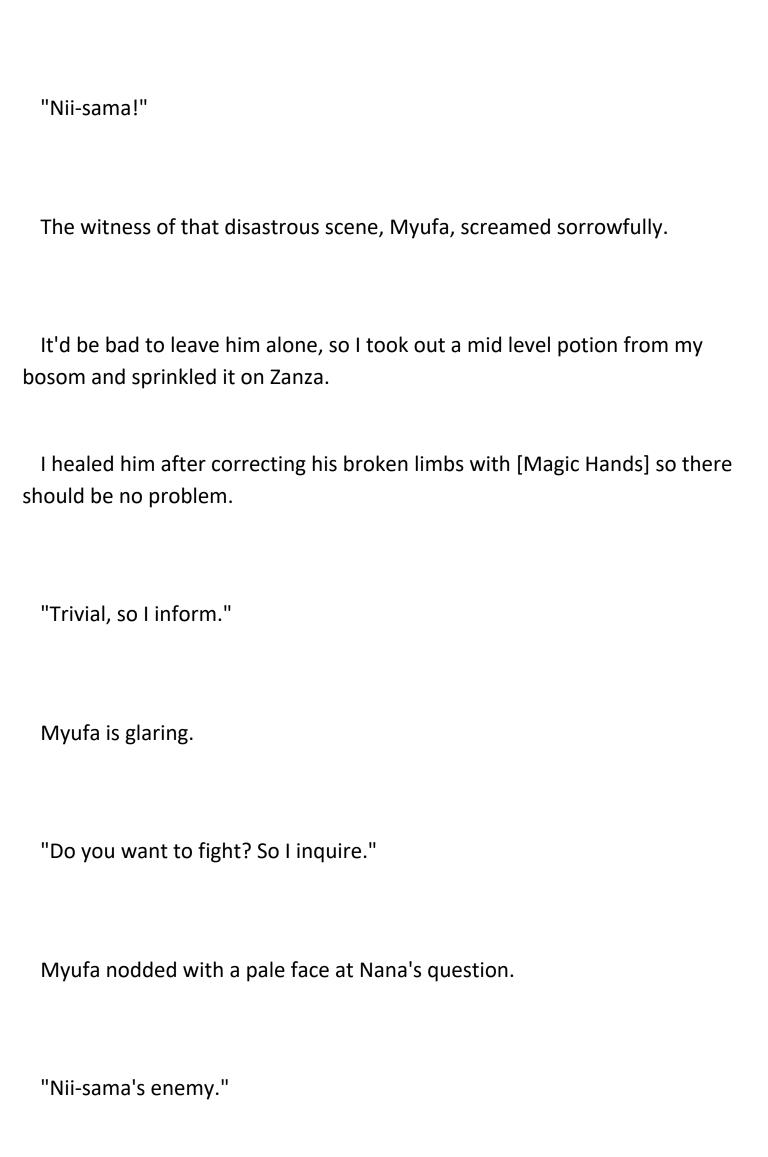


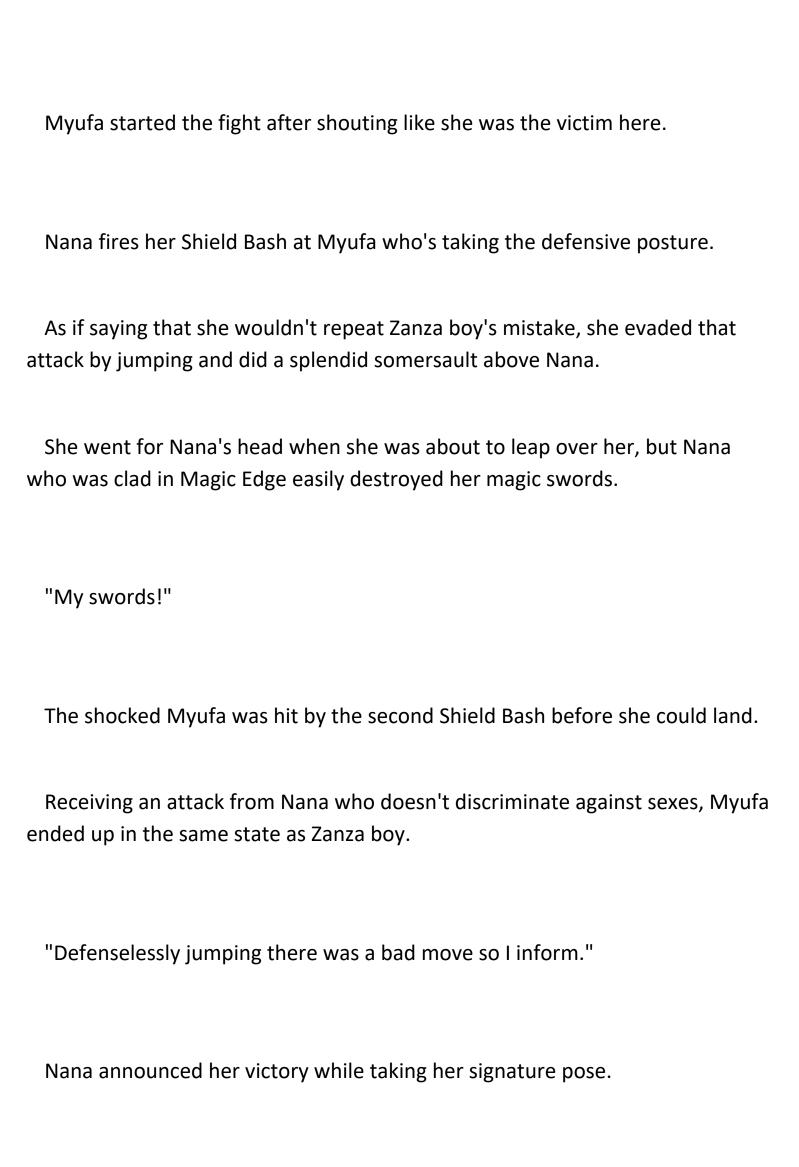




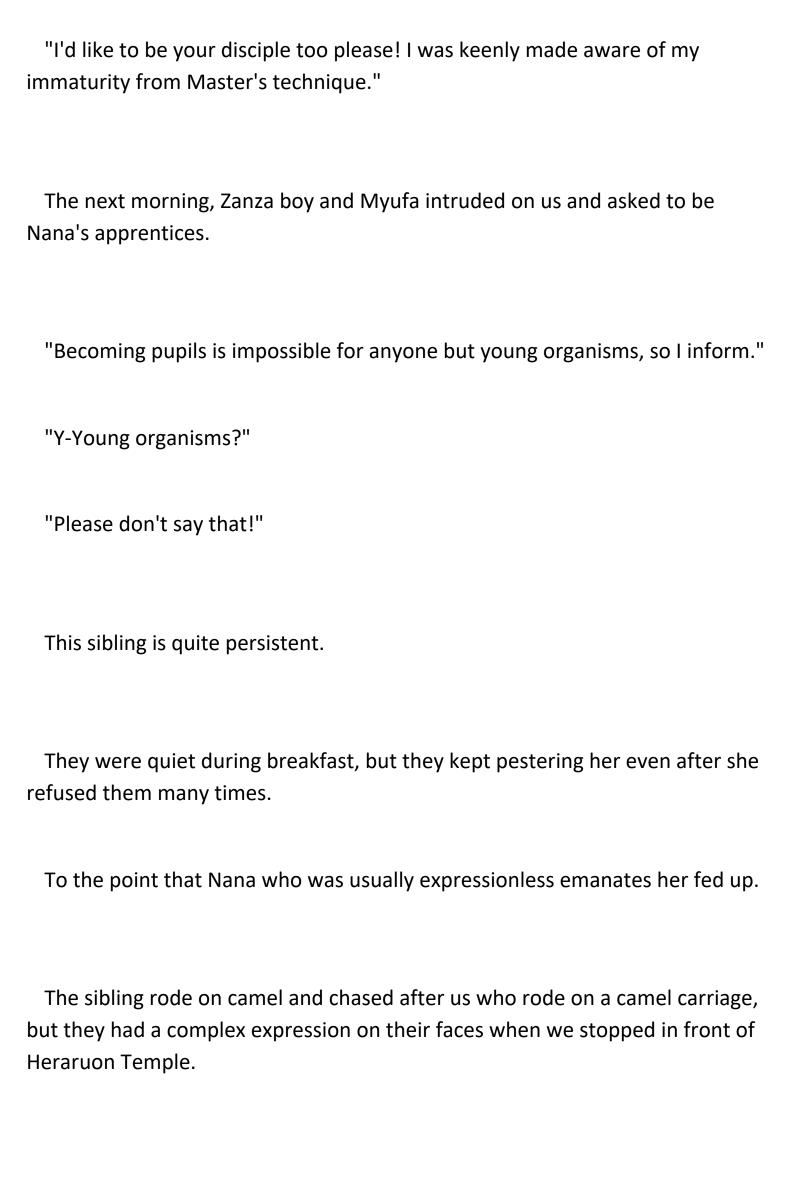


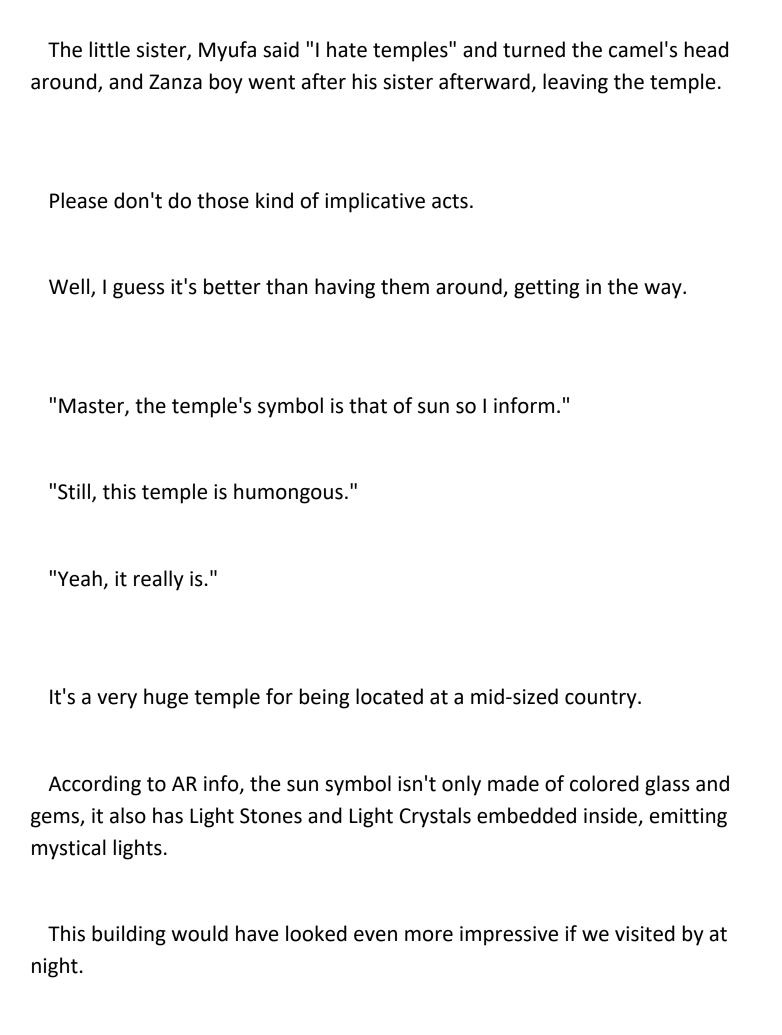




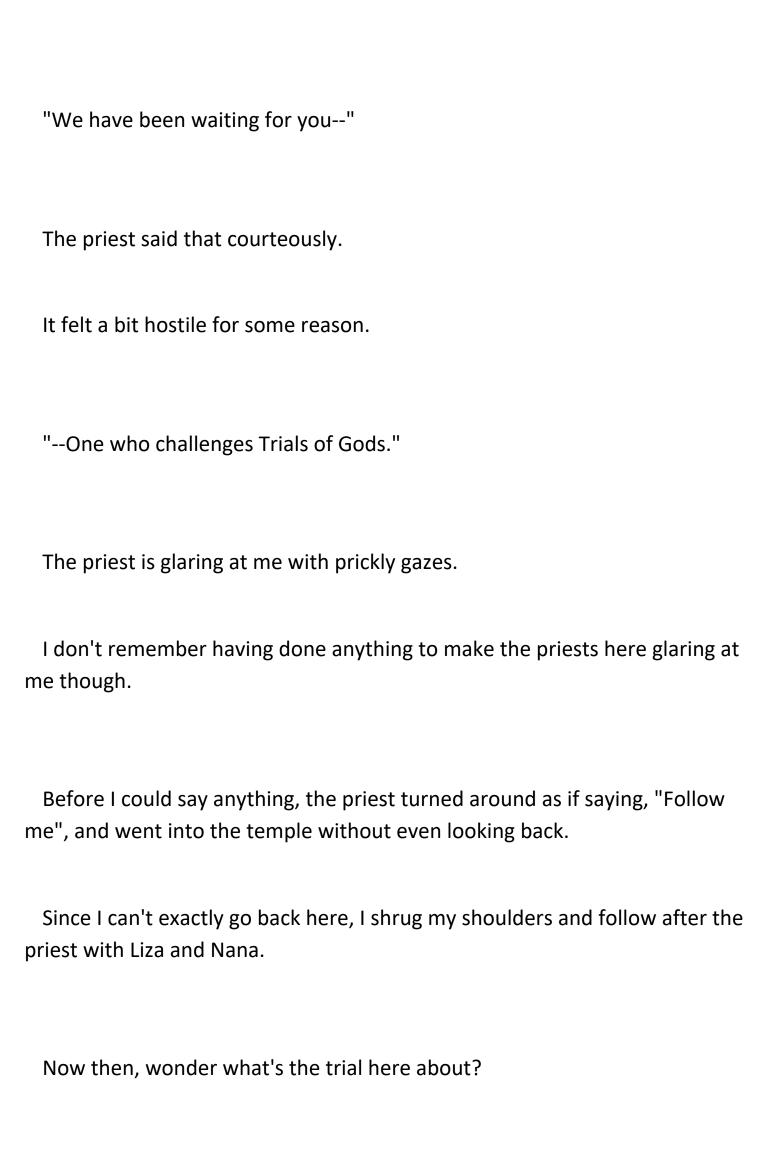


True	e, not being able to at least do a double jump makes for a good target.
	aled Myufa like I did Zanza boy, and left them alone while they were still scious as we went to our room.
l sav	v their attendants on the Radar, they'd probably collect them anyway.
	ed dancers-san are lying in wait, like it's some honey trap, in the room ted for me.
"Gui	lty so I announce."
	a who went in the room after me drove the dancers-san away after saying while looking oddly cheerful.
She	probably wanted to say [Guilty] like Arisa and Mia did.
\Diamond	
	ster Nagasaki! Forgive us for our rudeness last night. Please make me lisciple!"





After going up long stairs at the entrance, a Heraruon Temple priest wearing luxurious vestment was waiting for us.



16-19. Heraruon Temple

Satou here. There's probably nothing as uncontrollable as pure love in any era. But you've also got make sure not to turn into a stalker even after getting your hands on convenient power and tools.



"Please wait in this room."

The unfriendly Heraruon Temple's priest went away, leaving us behind in a cold dreary prison-like reception room.

There are chairs in the room at least, but they're made of hard stone, so I don't want to sit on one.

Looking around with space magic [Distant View], all other rooms besides this one seems nicely proper.

I'm not misunderstanding here, looks the temple priest earlier really holds enmity toward us.

"Such a simple and sturdy room. I wonder if God Heraruon is a warrior?"

"There was a description stating that on the seats of pantheon, so I inform." Since Liza and Nana don't seem to have any complaint with the treatment, I took several cushions out of storage bag and put them on the chairs. Might as well use this chance to get a little revenge and peek on the temple priest earlier with space magic [Distant View] and [Sharp Hearing]. "Miko Surya-sama, the black haired boy who was in the oracle has appeared." "Is it really him?" "Yes, I have never seen anyone else with the title [Challenger of Trials of Gods." There's a serene looking girl wearing miko-like clothing sitting in front of the priest. Her skin is untanned white, unusual for a resident of Sania Kingdom, her eyes are kept gently shut. Perhaps, she's visually impaired. I thought she had noticed me, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

"I will go and greet him before the ceremony. Please lead the way." "Understood. However, that guy is an uncouth warrior. We cannot allow anything happens to Miko-sama. Please wait until the temple swordsmen arrived." That's some verbal abuse. "That would be unnecessary. He is someone who has come here to receive God's trial. He won't be someone foolish enough to harm a Miko and incur the wrath of God Heraruon." "You must not, Miko-sama. Warriors are a race that act before they think. They are not people who are careful not to do regrettable acts, but people who regret after the fact." This extreme prejudice, perhaps Priest-kun has had a trauma with warriors. Though, right after thinking that, the figures of warriors in this country and the magician girl flashed in my mind.

Un, maybe it's not really prejudice.

Additionally, after checking the Map, I found out that the girl is the sole [Oracle Miko] in this country.

Considering that, it's only natural for Priest-kun to be watchful of her safety.

After waiting for a while, a young priestess showed up to lead us to another reception room where the Miko was waiting.



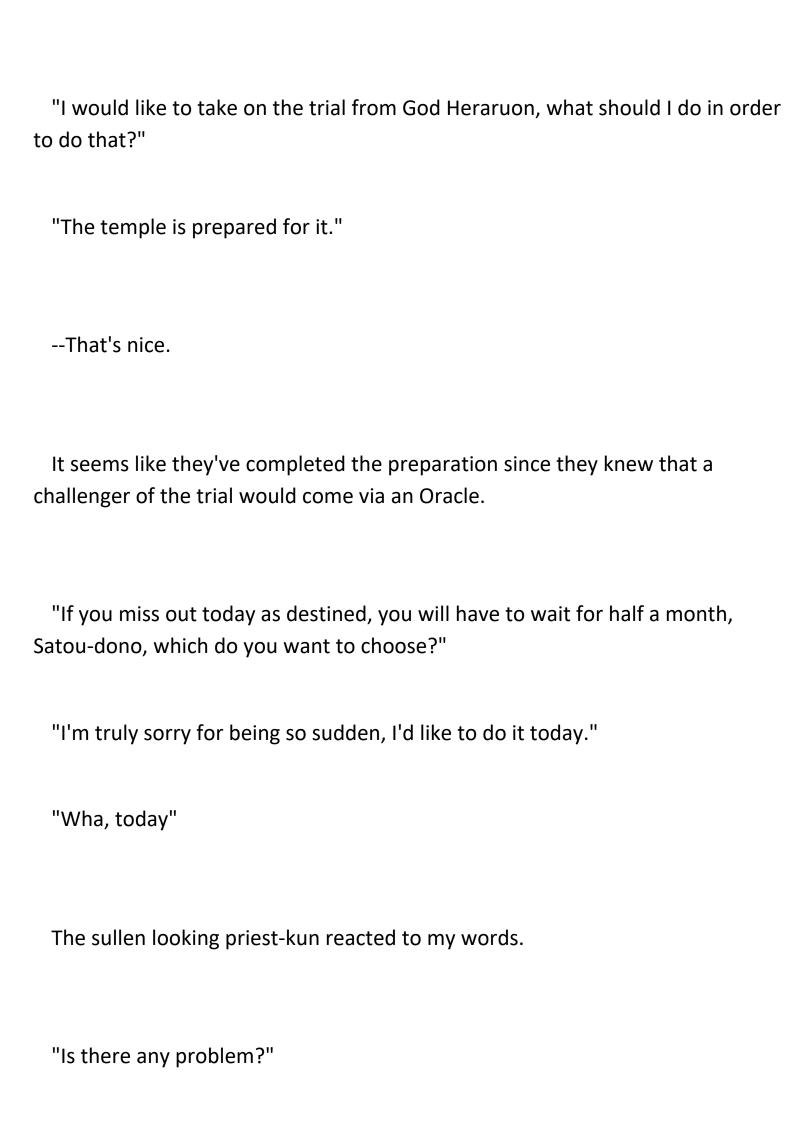
"Nice to meet you, [Challenger of Trials of God]. My name is Surya, I am an [Oracle Miko] who serves under God Heraruon."

"I'm Satou Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom. I am honored to be given the chance to meet Miko Surya-dono."

The girl who spoke with a calm tone had this solemn feel like an elderly elf.

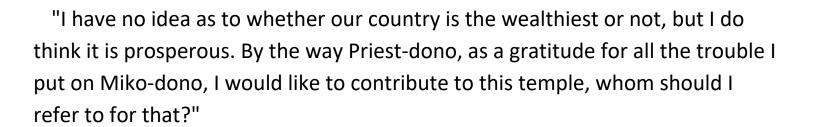
I could afford to look at her for hours if it wasn't for the sullen looking Priestkun standing behind her.

After some harmless chatter, I get straight to the point.





too.
The Miko left to prepare for the ceremony, and Priest-kun led me to another priestess who helped me change to ceremony clothing.
"Please wait a moment until Miko is ready."
We were told that, so I enjoyed some tea together with Liza and Nana.
A priest came by while we were waiting.
"Earl-sama, I hear that Shiga Kingdom is a very prosperous country. Some even say it's the wealthiest country on this continent."
Err? What's with the abrupt flattery?
So I thought, but then I got what was going on after seeing the AR indication.
He's the person in charge of this temple's fund raising.



"Oh then, that will be me."

When I offered that, the fund raising priest burst out with smiles and took the offer.

I wasn't asking for a smile from a good looking guy in particular, but the moment was just right, I took my contribution from the storage bag and gave it to him. 100 gold coins should be enough. And also.

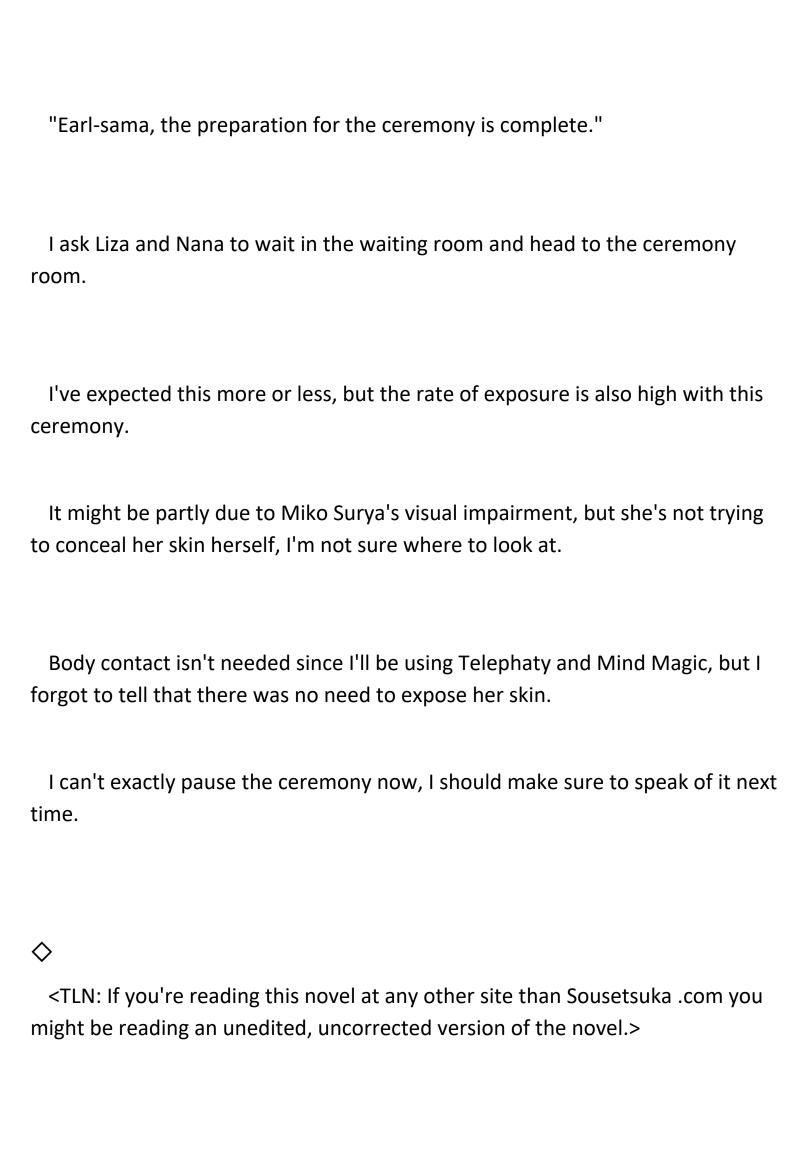
"And this small bag is?"

"That's something for Miko-dono herself personally."

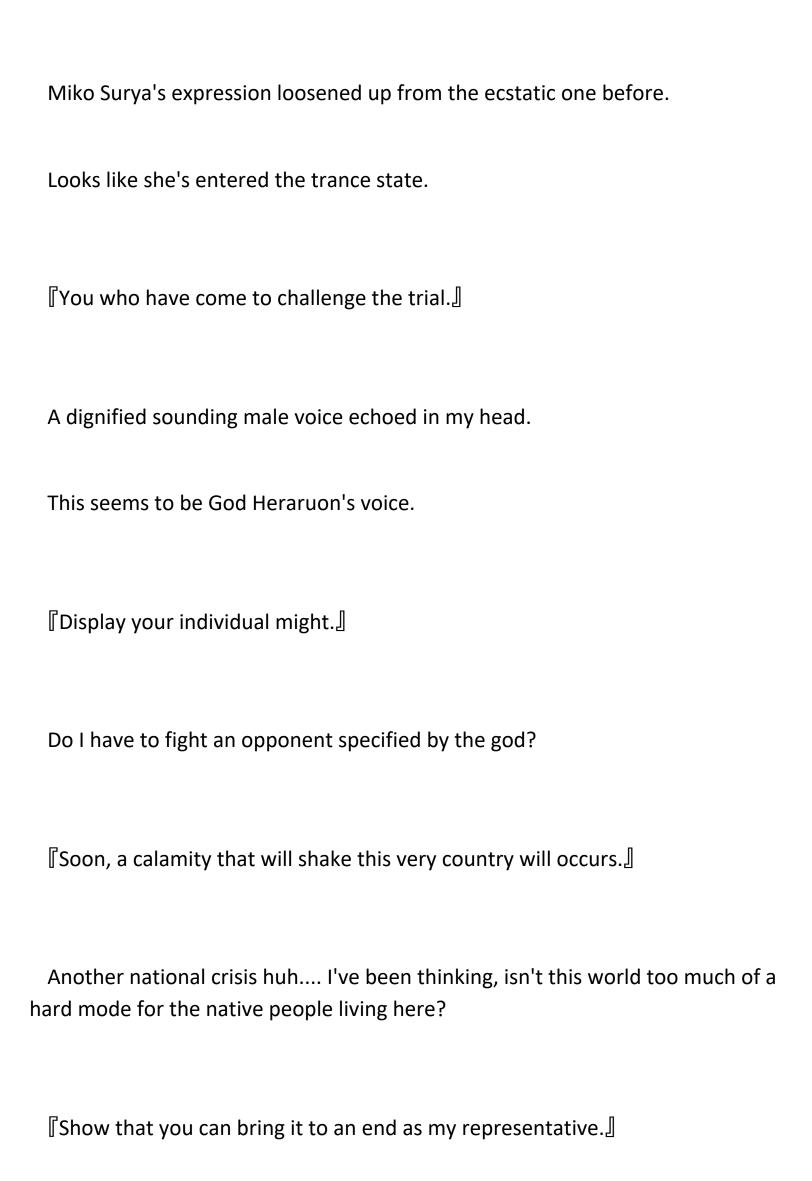
"Personally is it?"

"Yes, Miko-dono of Tenion Temple who took the same ceremony got really exhausted afterward, thus that item is to help her with the exhaustion."

After I explained the extra bag to the puzzled looking fund raising priest, he looked like he got it, called an apprentice mike who seemed to serve the mike and gave her the small bag.



I clear my mind and face the ceremony.
The ceremony procedure is the same as with the one at Tenion Temple.
I expressly chant mind magic [Mind Connection] and connect my mind with the Miko's.
I also use Telephaty skill to assist with the mind alignment.
[What a mysterious feeling.]
Miko Surya muttered in astonishment and then she began to plea for God.
『O God. Great God whom we worship.』
Oh? The plea is a bit different than the one for God Tenion.
It seems Miko Surya's plea has been answered, a bright light falls from above
Fiery light that looks like it'll cause sunburn. It feels stinging on my skin like being under the midsummer sun in a beach.



A luxurious ornamental golden sword floats in my mind.
Is this sword a proof to show that I am God Heraruon's representative?
[Once people revere my name far and wide, I shall give thee the proof.]
As expected of a god's trial.
That's quite a problem.
『O God Heraruon, what is this calamity like?』
I tried asking, but God Heraruon cut off the connection without a sound ju like that.
Looks like he doesn't like playing catch with words like God Tenion.
Or rather, it's like I was listening to a recording.



"No, this is the first I've heard of it." I investigated the Sand Demonic Scorpions on the Map while shaking my head. There are level gaps between 5 and 30, and they come in groups of 15 and 20. I dunno how many of them will come attacking, but they indeed possess quite a danger for the scale of this kingdom. Though, the kingdom probably has a countermeasure against the swarms considering it happens twice a year anyway, I don't think that's the kind of opponent that necessitate me to [Display my individual might]. "Usually, priests dispatched by Heraruon Temple and the kingdom's [Clan of Wand and Clan of Sword repel them, but..." Priest-kun faltered to say it clearly. Come to think of it, there was a coup d'etat or rather, an internal dissension, and the [Clan of Wand] was overthrown.

From the name, [Clan of Wand] is probably responsible for thinning out the Sand Demonic Scorpions from outside the range, but since that clan's battle force has been cut off due to the internal dissension, this might be dangerous.

Normally, you'd have thought that they removed [Clan of Wand] because they'd be fine even without them, but judging from the master swordsman and the muscle brain siblings last night, I'm afraid that there's a possibility of them taking the hegemony in delight without thinking of the consequences.

"Is there anything else?"

"If you don't mind folklores, there's a legend about [Land King] sleeping in the withered labyrinth protected by barrier of sandstorms."

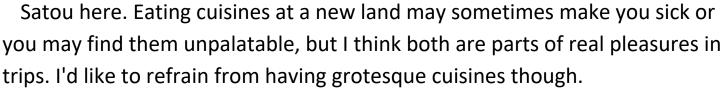
According to Priest-kun, Land King was a servant of God's Nemesis that destroyed temples all over the world a long long time before the founding of Sania Kingdom, around 2000 years ago.

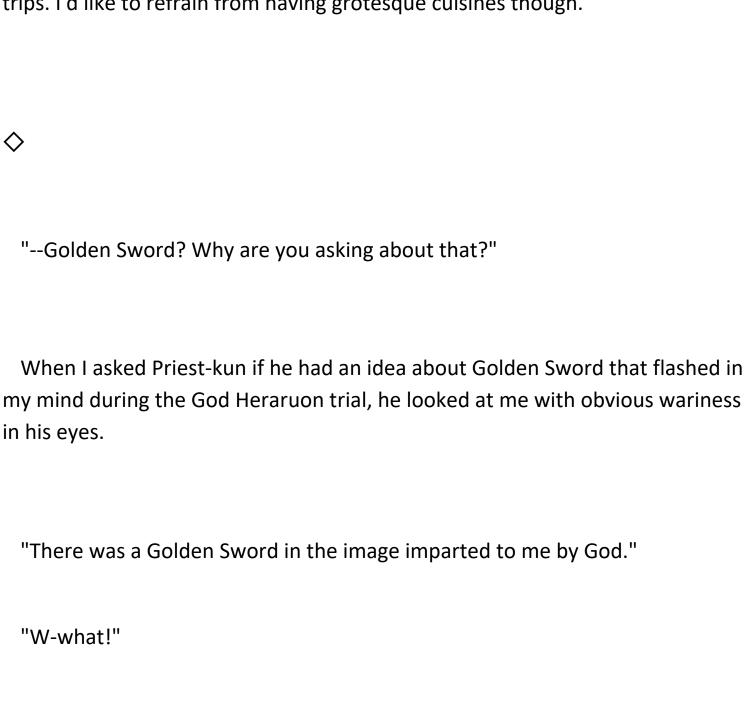
This one is a completely folklore level of story, but it seems more likely to be the trial from god.

That barrier of sandstorm is probably the stuff I saw before arriving at Sania Kingdom, going there directly is a simple matter, but I won't be able to clear God Heraruon's order of [Once people revere my name far and wide] if I go and defeat it there.

Since it seems like we have to wait here for the time being, I'll go stealthily tour Sania Kingdom with the girls standing by at Solitary Island Palace and gather some info.
However, before that
"One last question."
I asked Priest-kun before I left the temple.
"Do you know about Golden Sword?"

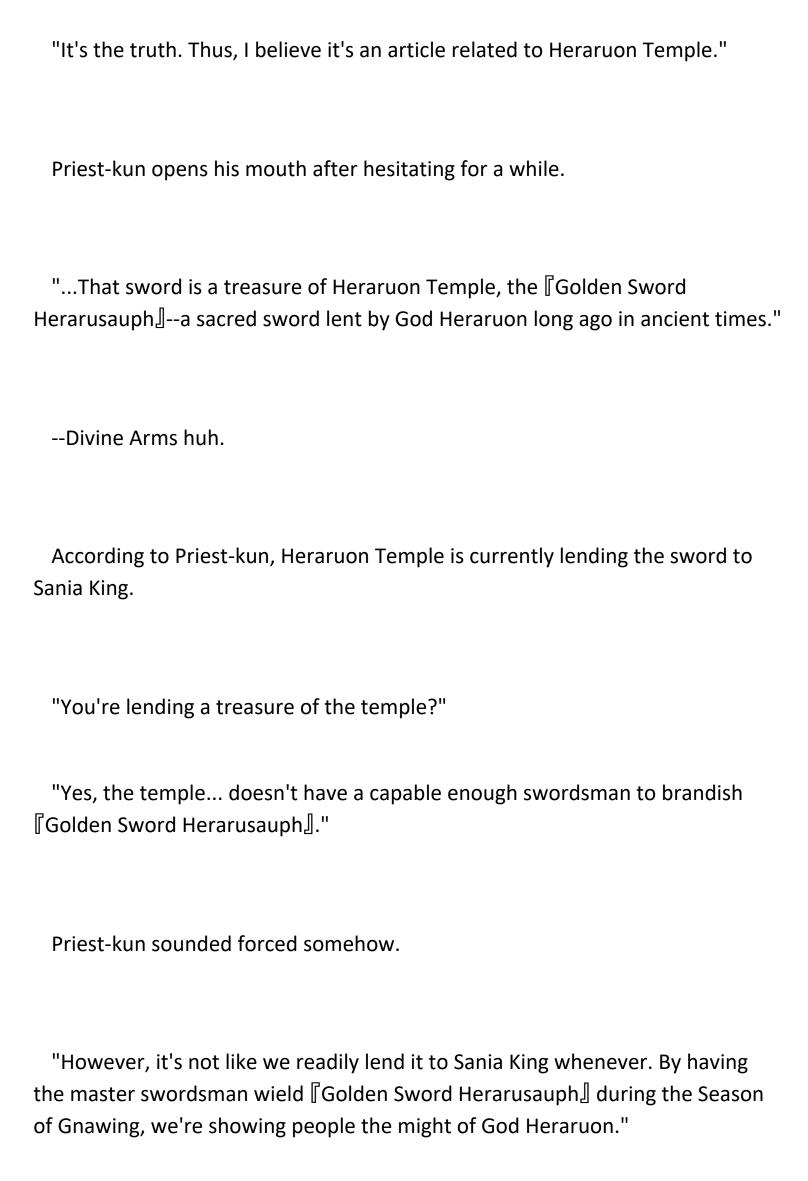
16-20. Sania Kingdom (1)





When I told Priest-kun the truth, he stood up in surprises.

It seems to be quite a shock.



Master swordsman--the old man from that sword dance huh.

Additionally, the [Season of Gnawing] refers to the two occasions where Sand Demon Scorpions attack the kingdom in swarms.

Searching on the Map, I see that the [Golden Sword Herarusauph] is in the mansion of [Clan of Sword] inside the royal palace.

I also saw how it looked at with Space magic.

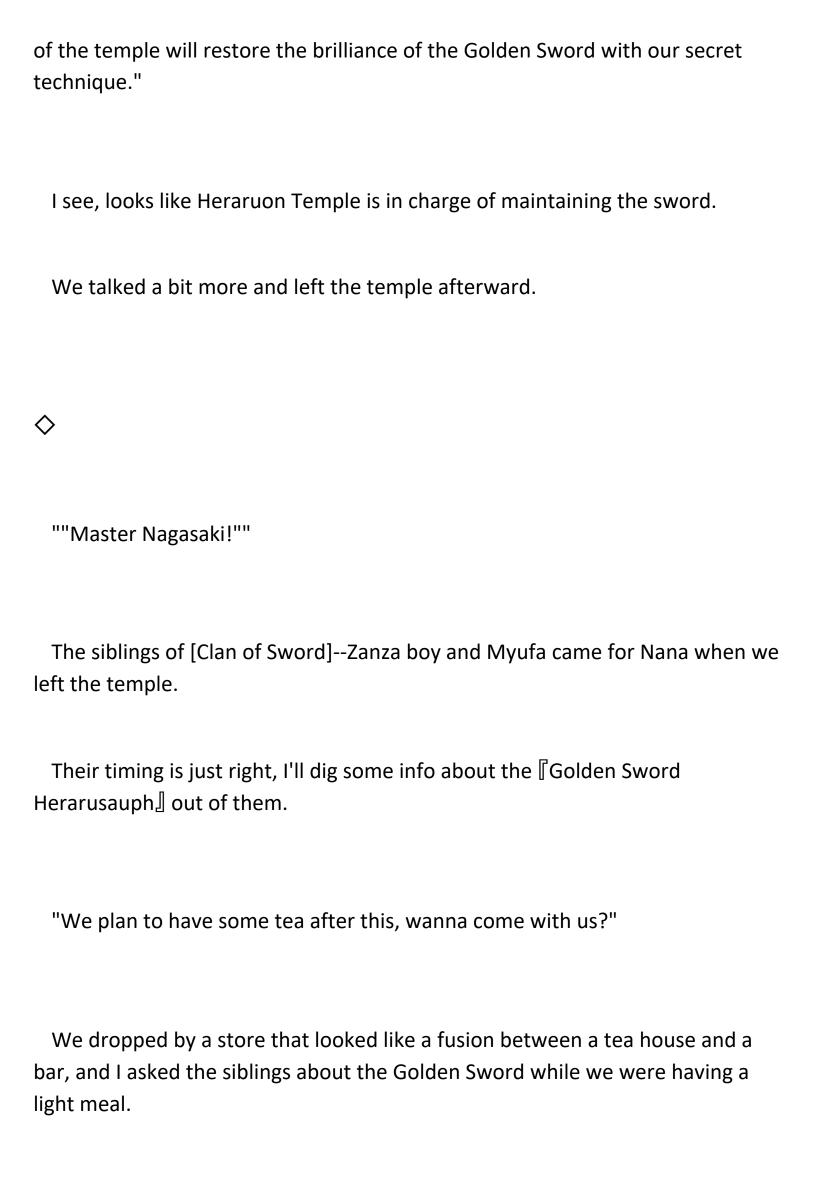
It's a huge sword with an almost two meter long blade made of Orichalcum, there's relief carved on its blade to its grip, moreover, there's a sun-colored topaz like gem embedded on the base of its blade. That's quite a gaudy sword.

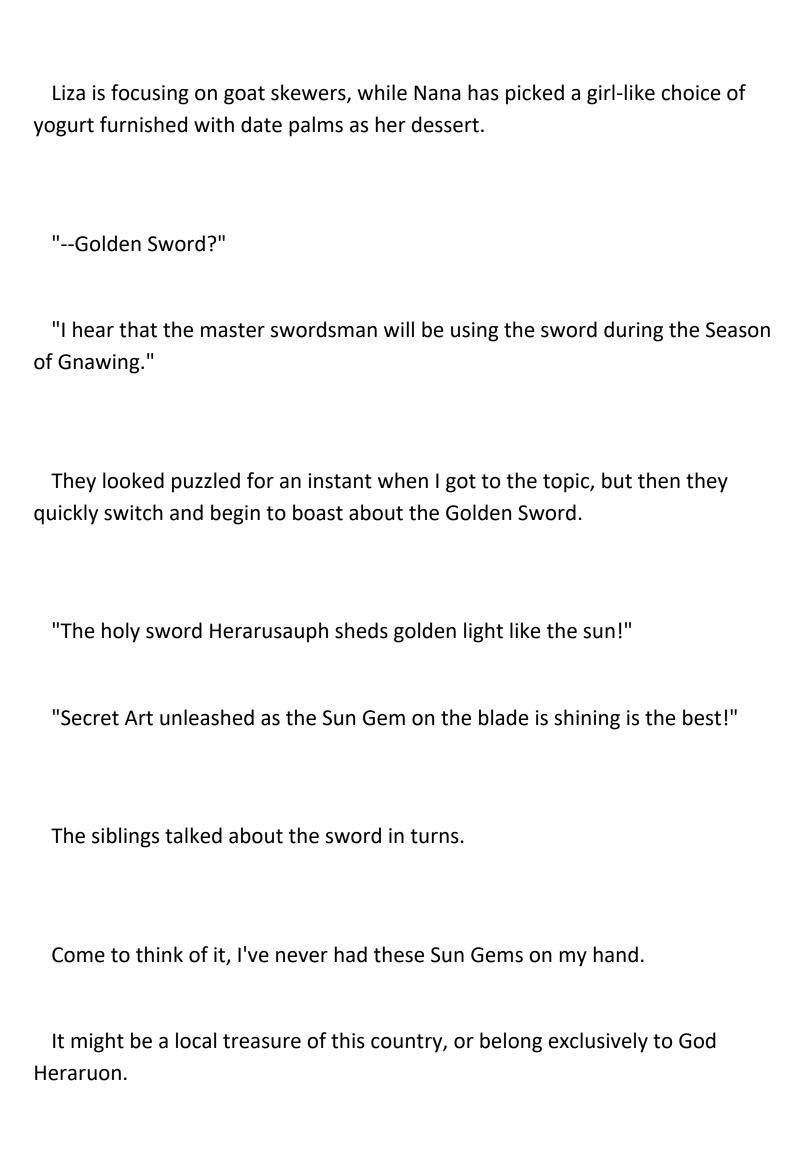
"Is that [Golden Sword Herarusauph] lent permanently to Sania King?"

"No--"

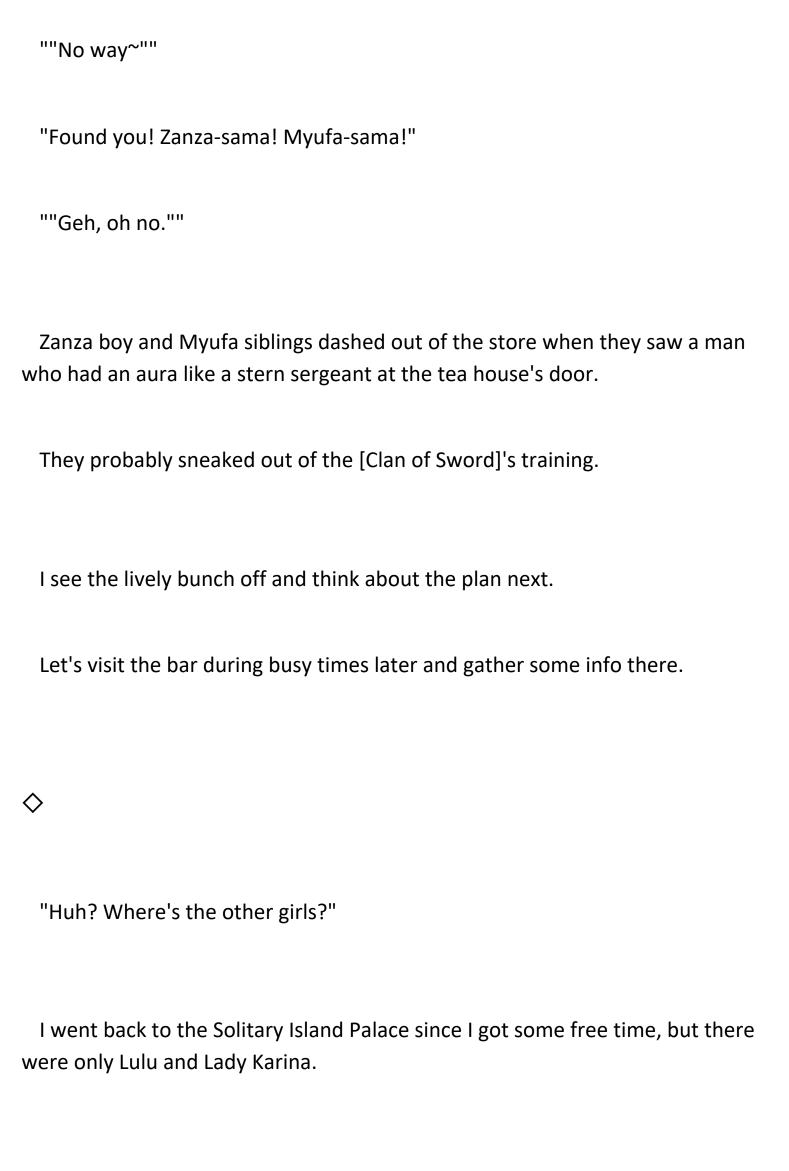
Priest-kun who had a bitter expression on his face floats a smile with a sense of superiority.

"--It will be returned to Heraruon Temple after the Gnawing is over. And we

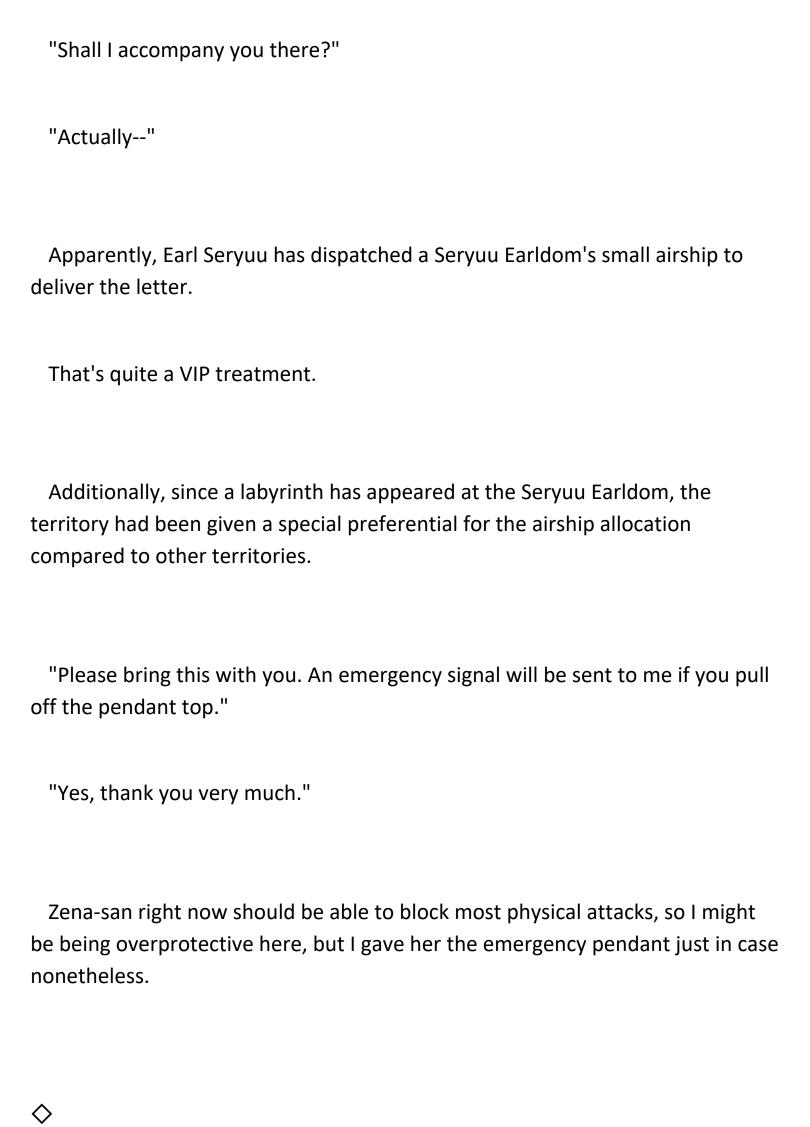


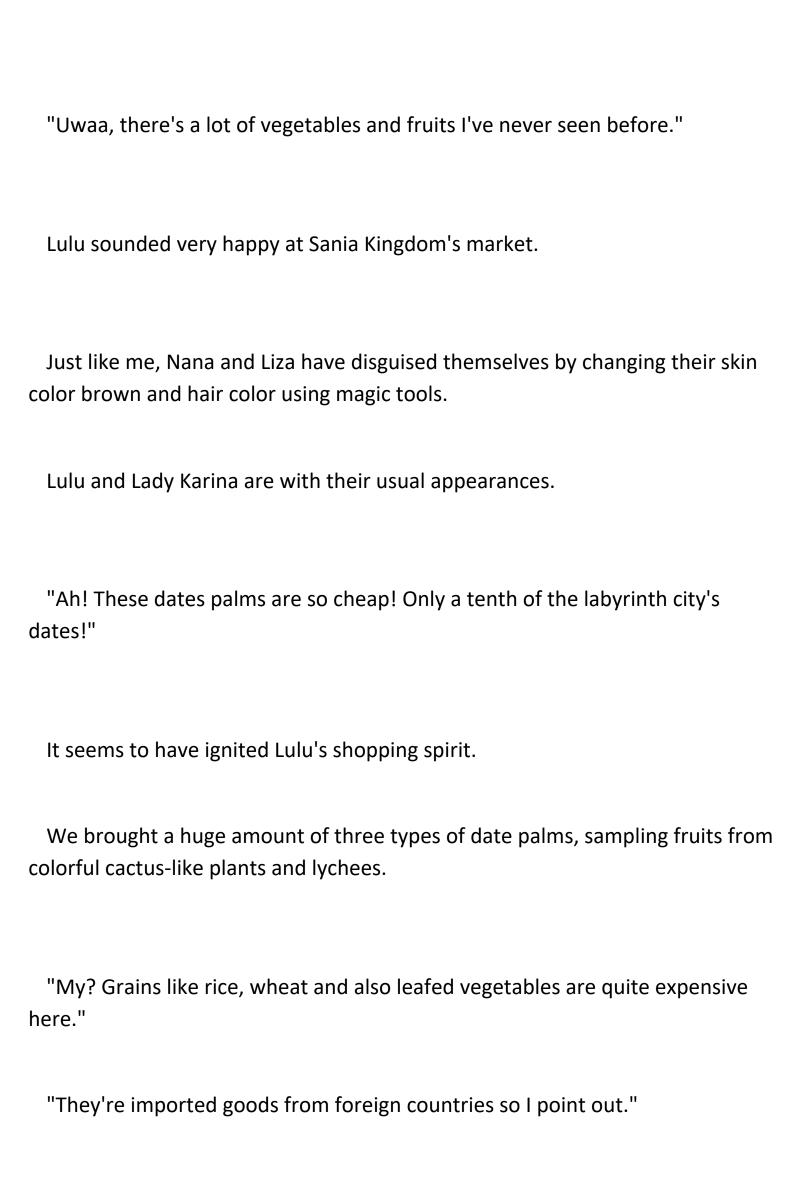












Nana answered Lulu's question.

This country also produces leafed vegetables and root crops, but considering the lack of water here, it must be quite challenging to grow them, resulting in high prices.

"Are those goat meat I wonder?"

"Looks like meat from reptiles called sand crocodiles are sold cheap here."

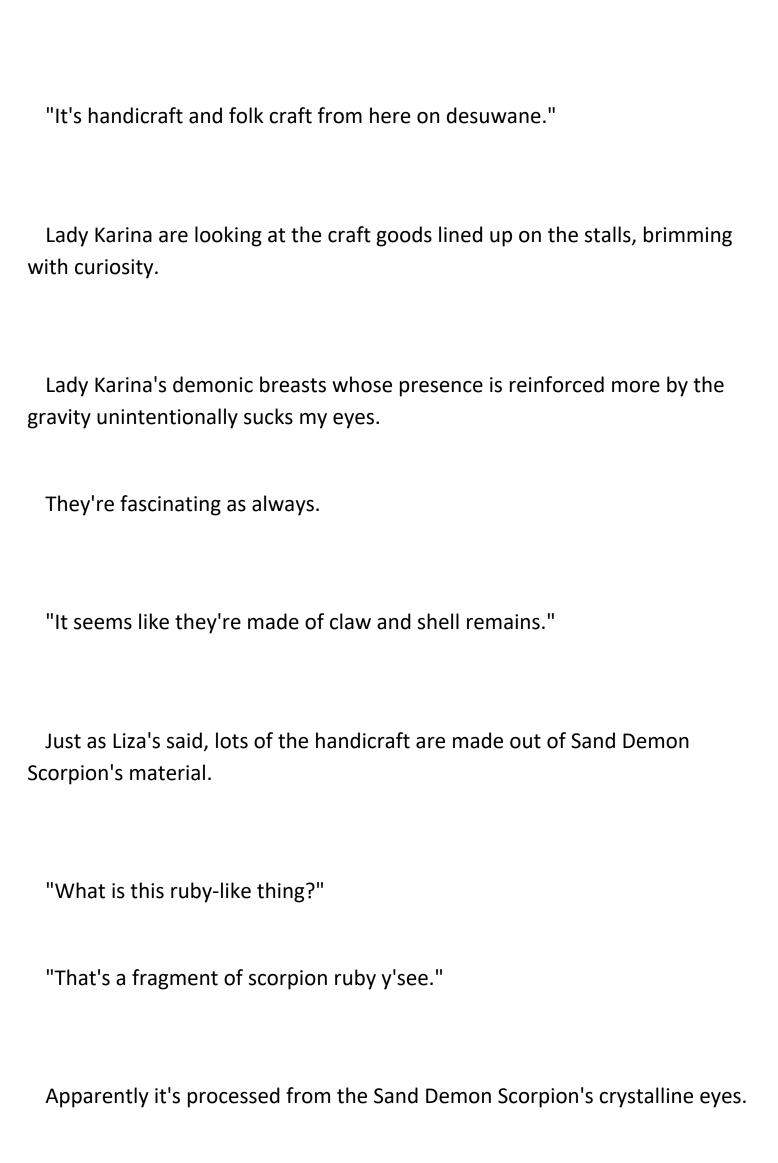
"Master, I want to eat the sand fish with glittering scales so I entreat."

Goat meat is expensive, the main dish here is majorly centered on sand crocodiles and sand fish.

"There's still some time until lunch, let's have some later."

"I'm already looking forward to it so I declare."

I'm not sure what makes Nana attracted to the sand fish, but she's not the only one intrigued by the sand fish's taste, the other girls and me are too, so it's definitely going to be on our lunch menu later.



"There's nothing but fragments here desuwa." "Go to a legit jewelry if you wanna get some legit jewels." As told by the stall keeper, we went to a nearby jewelry and found scorpion ruby similar to the one from earlier and sapphire-like gems called Scorpion Holy Gems. "Looks like there's a variety of size to the Scorpion Ruby desuwa." "This Scorpion Holy Gem is blue colored gem similar to sapphire and aguamarine, so I inform." Lady Karina and Nana's eyes are gleaming at the jewelry. Apparently, these two love stuff with glitters. Contrary to its name, Scorpion Holy Gem isn't actually holy elemental, but as a gem, it's used as a material for many different types of magic tools. Scorpion Ruby has an effect to amplify fire and explosion elemental magic, many magicians attach it on the tip of their wand.

There were also equipment and shields made out of Sand Demon Scorpion's shells, and also claws, and fangs at the armor store.

It looks like the Sand Demon Scorpions are both a disaster and a source of income for the industry in this country.

I'd better not try to exterminate the Sand Demon Scorpions with a large scale magic or something.

 \Diamond

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

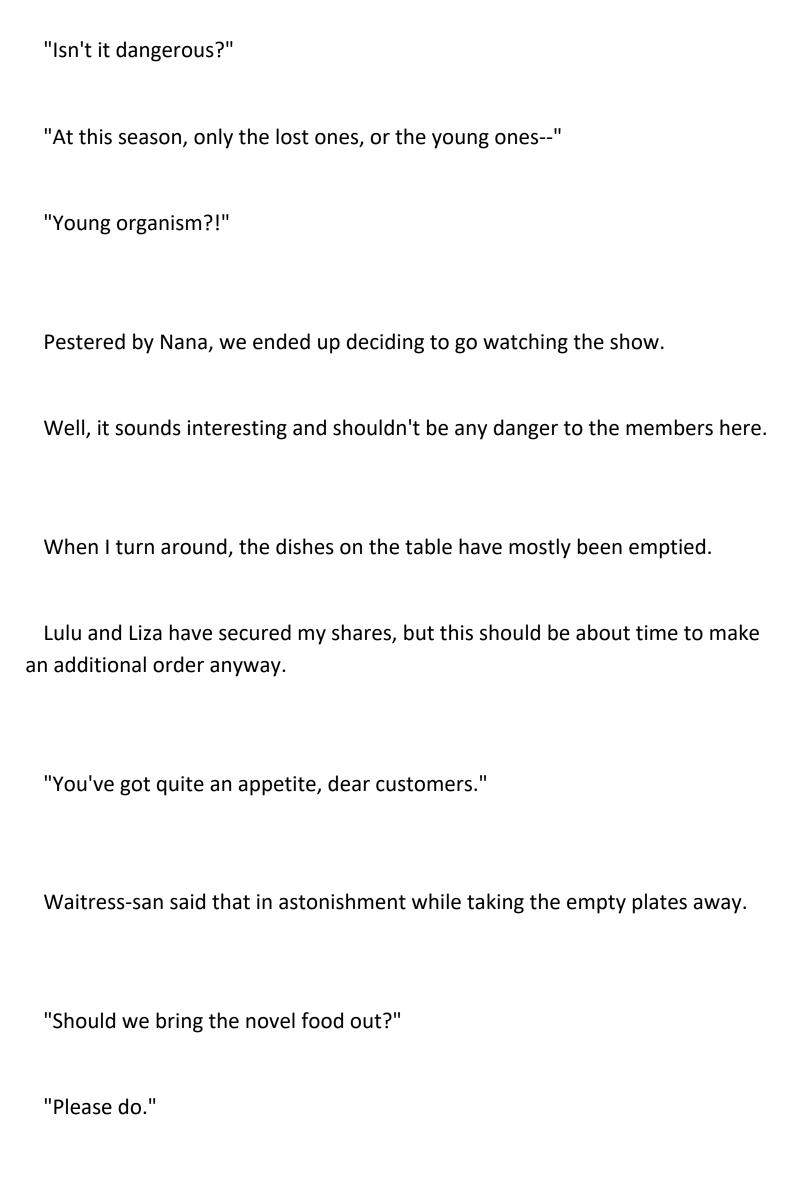
"Here's your boiled sand fish and sand crocodile butter roast. Please wait a bit for the pilaf, okay."

Nearing lunch time, I ordered what Nana and the others wanted at a restaurant nearby.

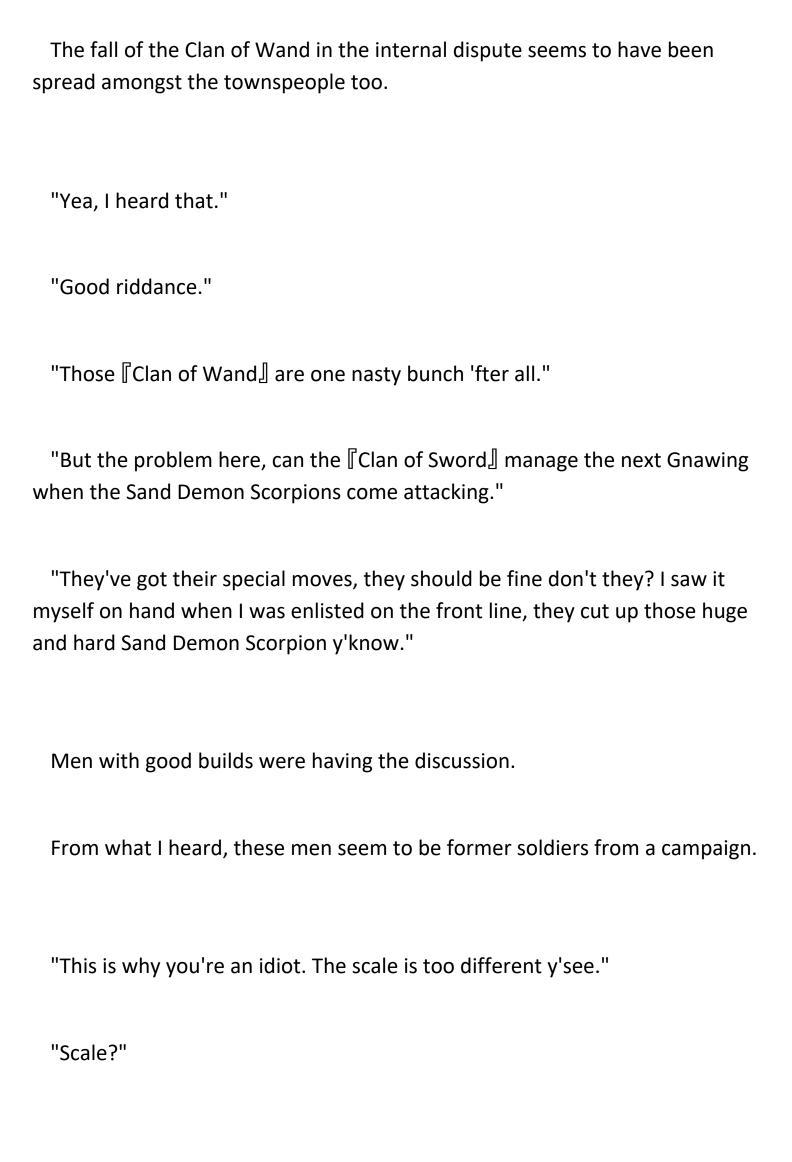
"Starving~"

"It smells nice nanodesu."
Tama and Pochi's noses peeked out of the shadow on my feet, sniffing the smell.
When I put my hands on their noses, their faces shook and then they went out of the shadow while cheerfully saying, "Got found~", "We were found out nodesu~."
"Is it lunch break time?"
"Aye!"
"Yes nanodesu!"
Guess it's fine then, let's eat together with the two.
"And here's a hearty sania pilaf plate and extra large portion of various meanskewers."
Waitress-san carried the next main dish to the table.
The pilaf plate is furnished with sand crocodile, sand fish, all sort of vegetables, date palm and pineapple-like fruit that I'm not sure of, very lively.

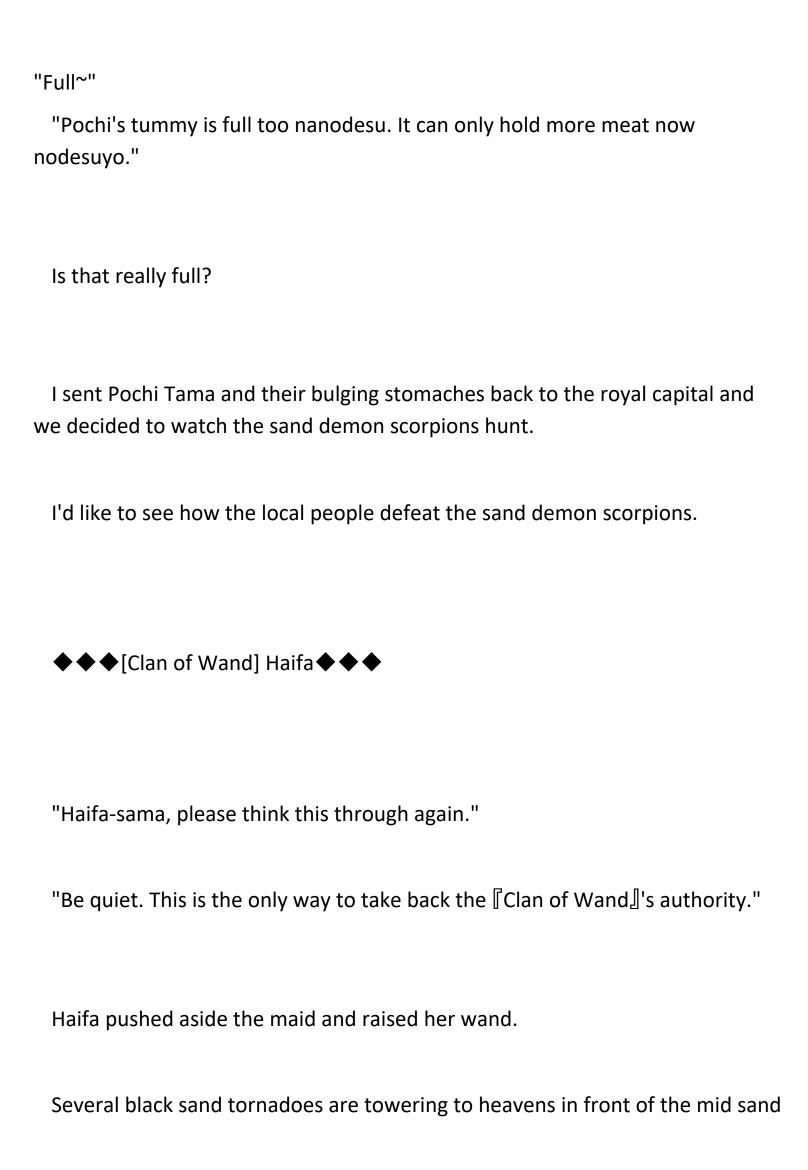


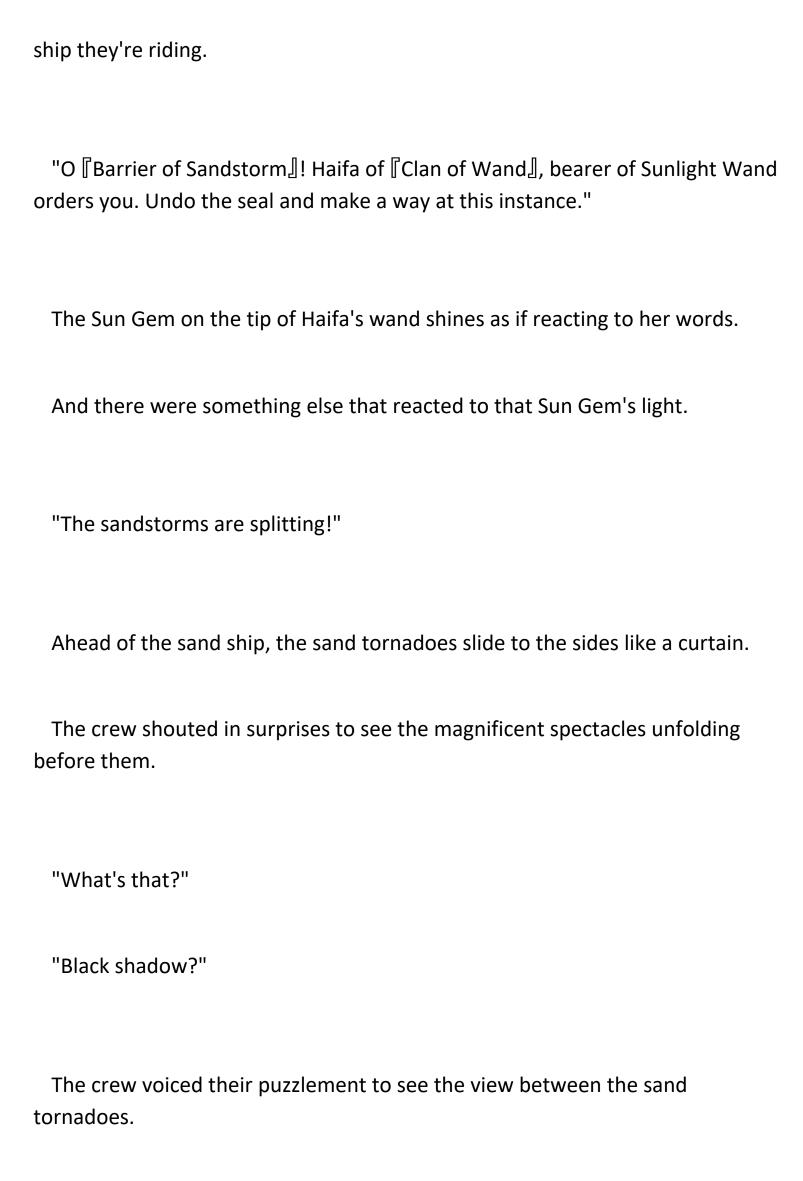


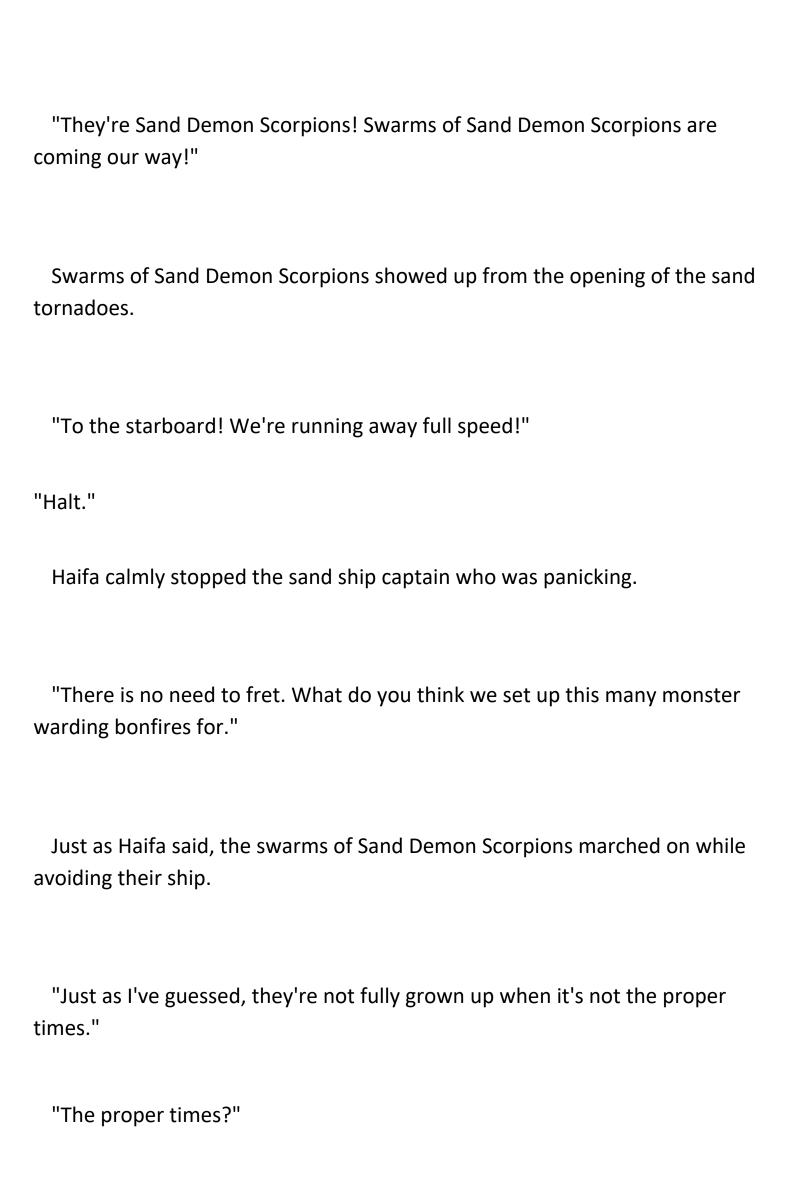




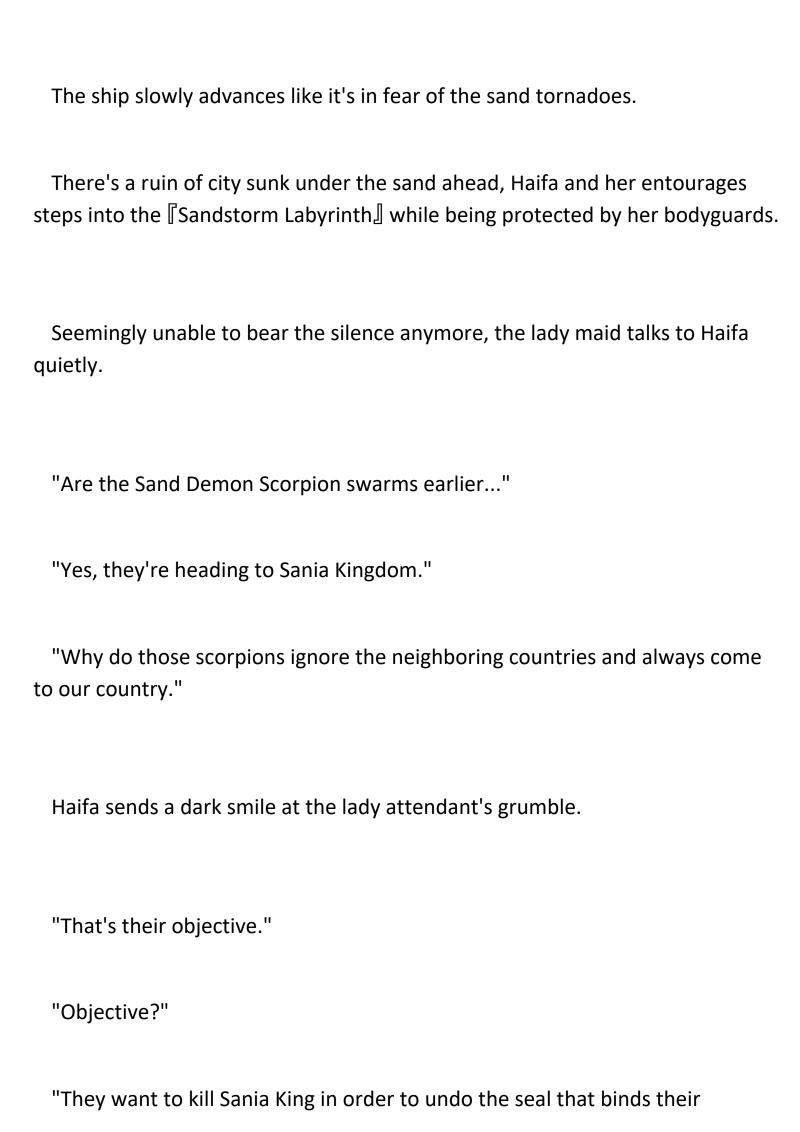


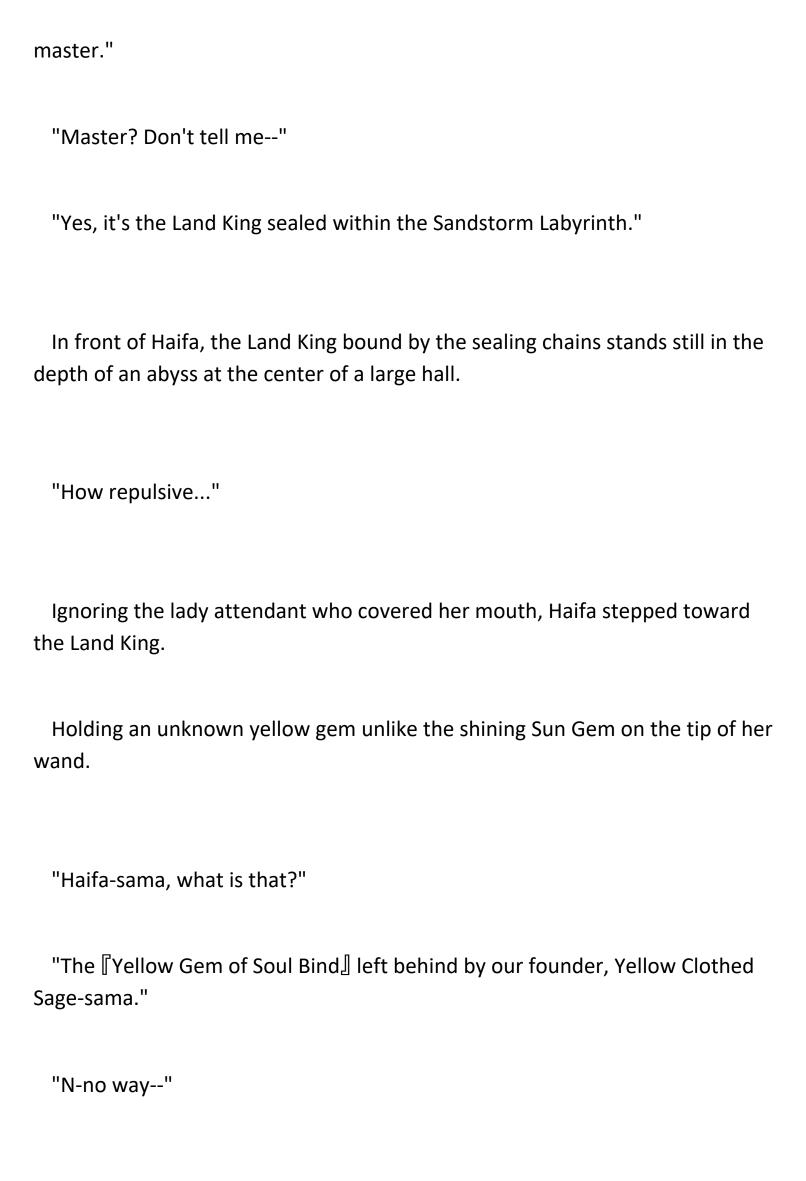


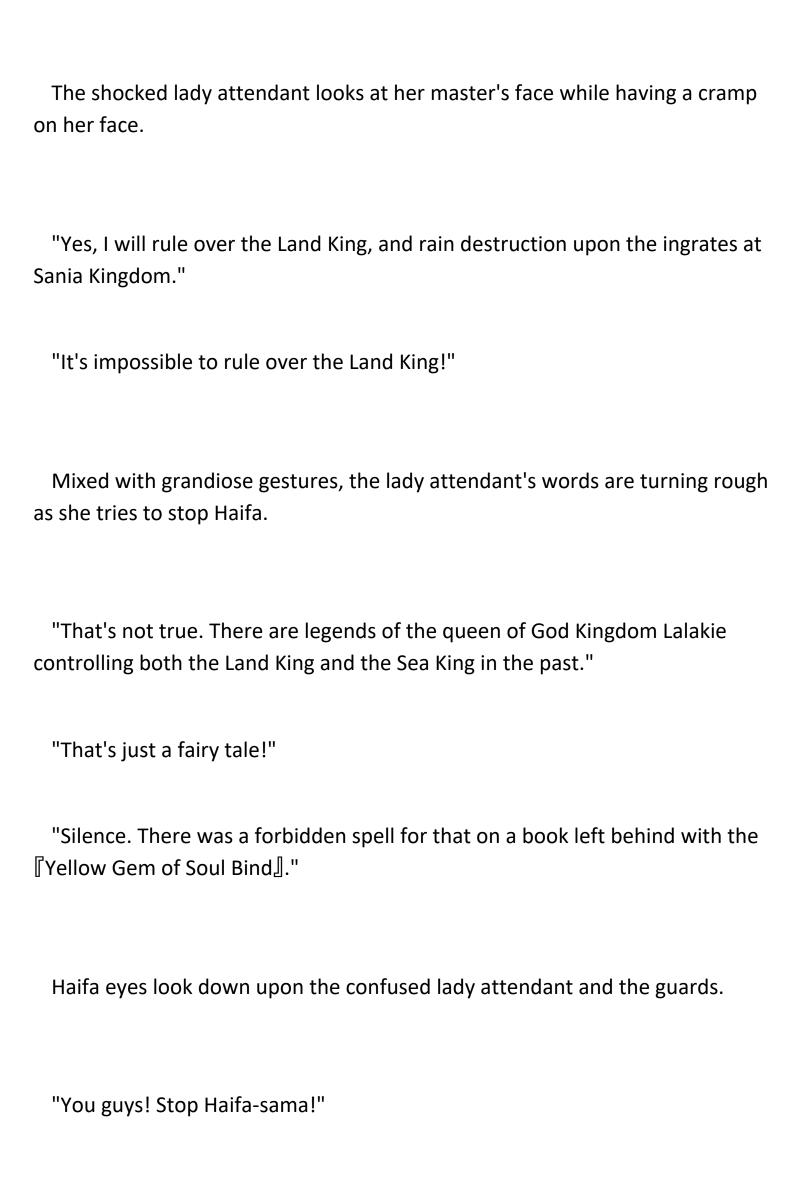












	""YES!""
а	The lady attendant and the guards who tried to stop her were blown away by weak explosion, as Haifa took a step forward.
	"Now, Land King. Abide by me"
	With nothing in her way, Haifa held up the [Yellow Gem of Soul Bind].

16-21. Sania Kingdom (2)

Satou here. I've never gone on a whale watching, but I've been out on the open sea on a ship. I think eating tempura made of the fish you catch there is the best luxury you could have gotten.



"Huh, there's more people than I imagined here."

We went to watch the Sand Demon Scorpion hunt we heard about during our lunch.

This seems to be a form of amusement in Sania Kingdom, a lot of people have gathered at the harbor and we will be riding two canoe-sized ships separately.

"Master, there is no young organism here so I report."

Just as Nana said, since this can get dangerous, there's no children here.

"Master, it appears that the warships over there will be doing the hunt."

Liza points at three warships.

According to the info on my Map, there are seven fire magicians, three wind magicians, and three swordsmen of the [Clan of Sword] in addition to the sailors who are equipped with bows on board those ships.

When the warships departed, the tour boat we were riding on also followed after them toward the Small Sand Sea.

I saw a structure that looked like breakwater about three meter big and hundreds meters long although it was hard to distinguish since it was sand colored.

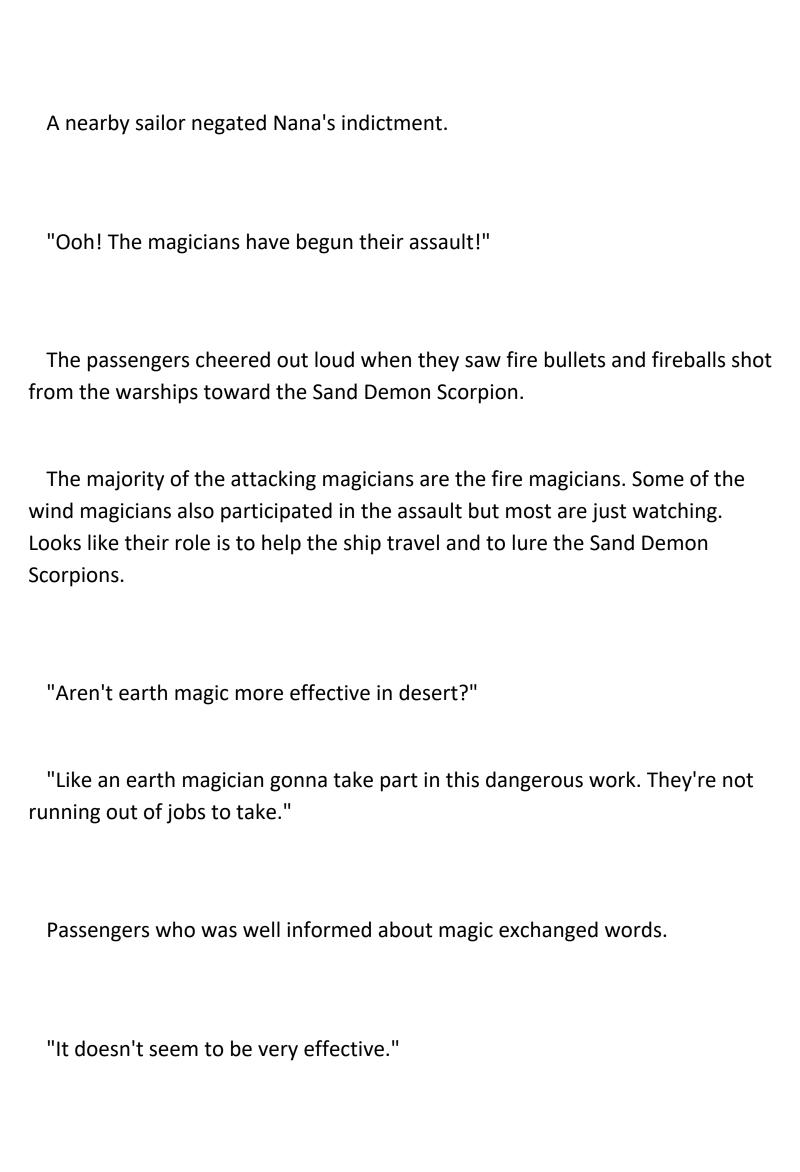
"What's that breakwater-like thing over there?"

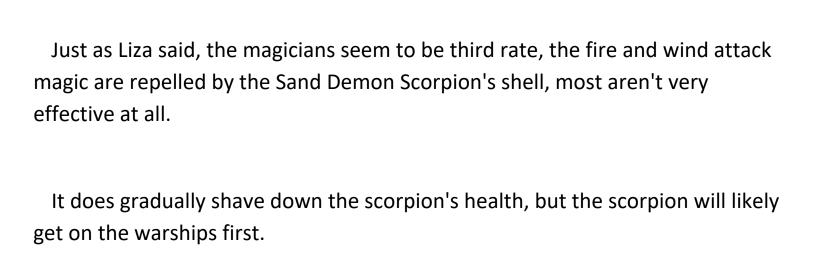
I asked a nearby sailor since it piqued my interest a bit.

"Ah, that's to goad the Sand Demon Scorpion swarms during the [Gnawing]."

After listening to the sailor's explanation, I get what the breakwater construction is for by looking at the Map.

The [Clan of Wand] magic probably kill the Sand Demon Scorpion swarms once they're goaded to various locations.
After crossing the breakwater and sailing for about two hours, the warships lowered their sail and put lamb meat on a crane-like thing.
"The wind magicians will spread the smell of that carrion and then the scorpions will come enticed by the smell."
One of the sailors explained the warships' actions.
"Master, it's coming."
Liza found a Sand Demon Scorpion coming from a distance.
The minitruck-sized Sand Demon Scorpion is walking on the Small Sand Sea like it's swimming.
"Master, the archers on the warships are playing hooky so I report."
"Aah, they're there for the Sand Crocodiles and the vultures. Basic stuff like arrows ain't gonna work on the scorpion's thick shell."





"The boss's about to show up."

A merchant who seemed to be a regular pointed at the stern of the center warship and shouted out loud.

Turning my gaze there, I saw three [Clan of Sword] men standing there.

"Let's do it!"

""OU!""

They yelled out, dashed from the stern to the bow of the ship and jumped on the Sand Demon Scorpion along with the momentum.

"Special Move--<<Shell Breaker>>"

"Special Move--<<Hairsplitting Thrust>>"

"Special Move< <hairsplitting thrust="">>"</hairsplitting>
One of the special move broke the scorpion's neck shell, and then the second and third swords gouged it.
The scorpion hasn't fallen from the attacks as its scissors come attacking at the three who are on its back.
The three seemed to have predicted that attack, they jumped off the scorpion's back and landed on the Small Sand Sea.
"Master, they're not sinking on the quicksand so I report."
The sand on the Small Sand Sea is too fine grained, you will sink on it like on snow field or water if you land on it.
Looking closer, the swordsmen' shoes are shaped like snow boots.
"Those are shoes made from the Sand Membrane found on the Sand Demon Scorpion's legs."

The merchant then amicably told Nana and also didn't forget to promote his wares, "Please have a visit to Tonbell Company if you would like to order a pair."

Before long, the three swordsmen killed the Sand Demon Scorpion without the magicians' help.

"Everyone, the show is still not over yet."

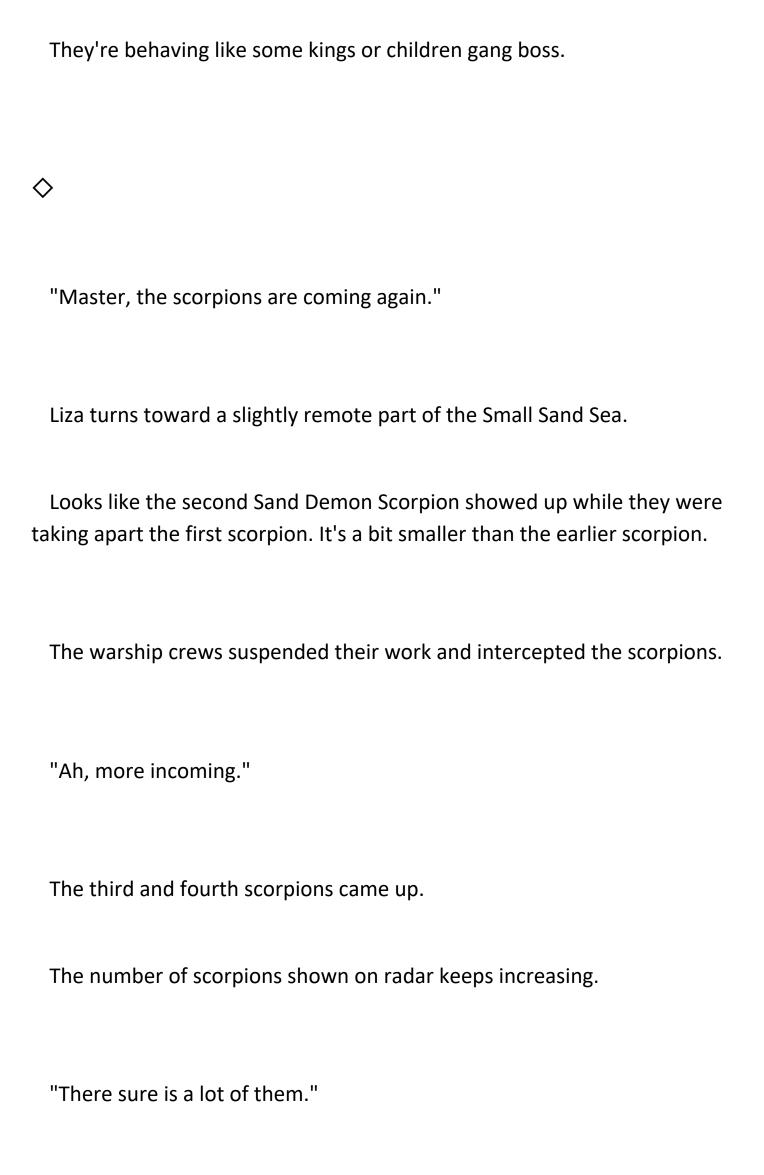
The regular customer spoke to the sightseers who were leaving the boat's side after the battle was over.

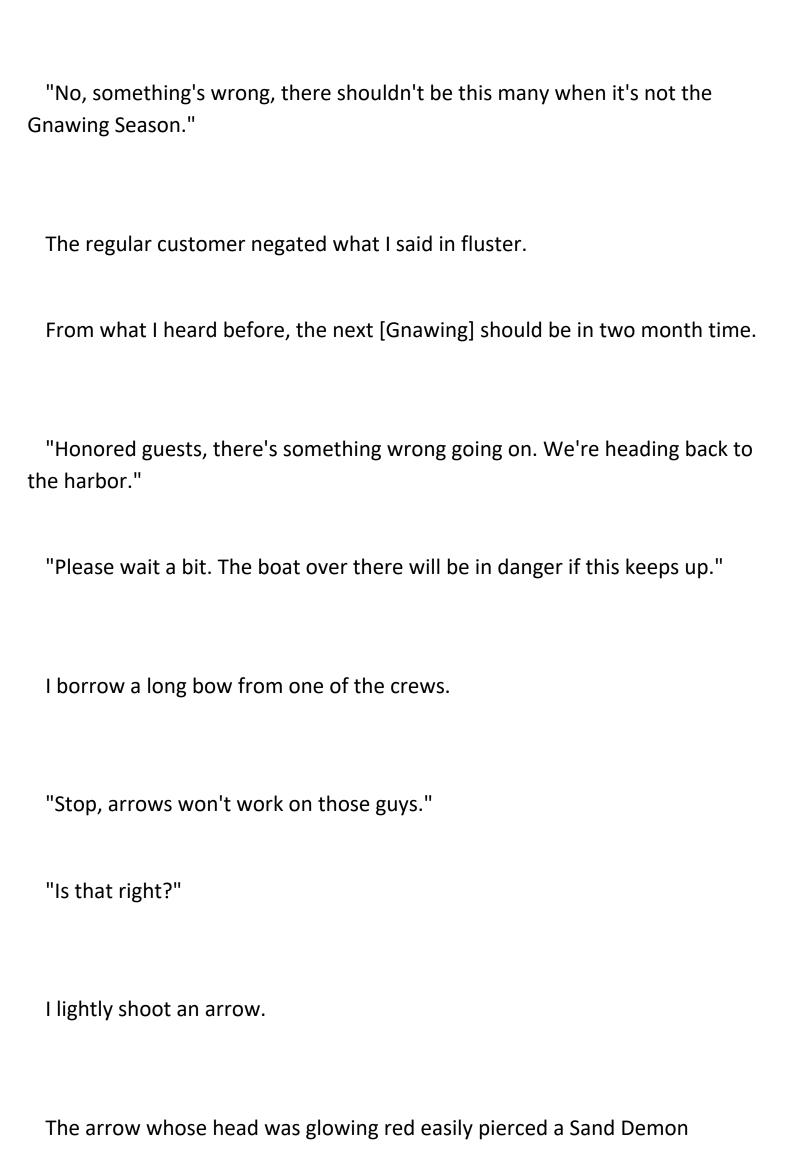
The wind magicians come to the ship's bow, wield their wands and begin to chant.

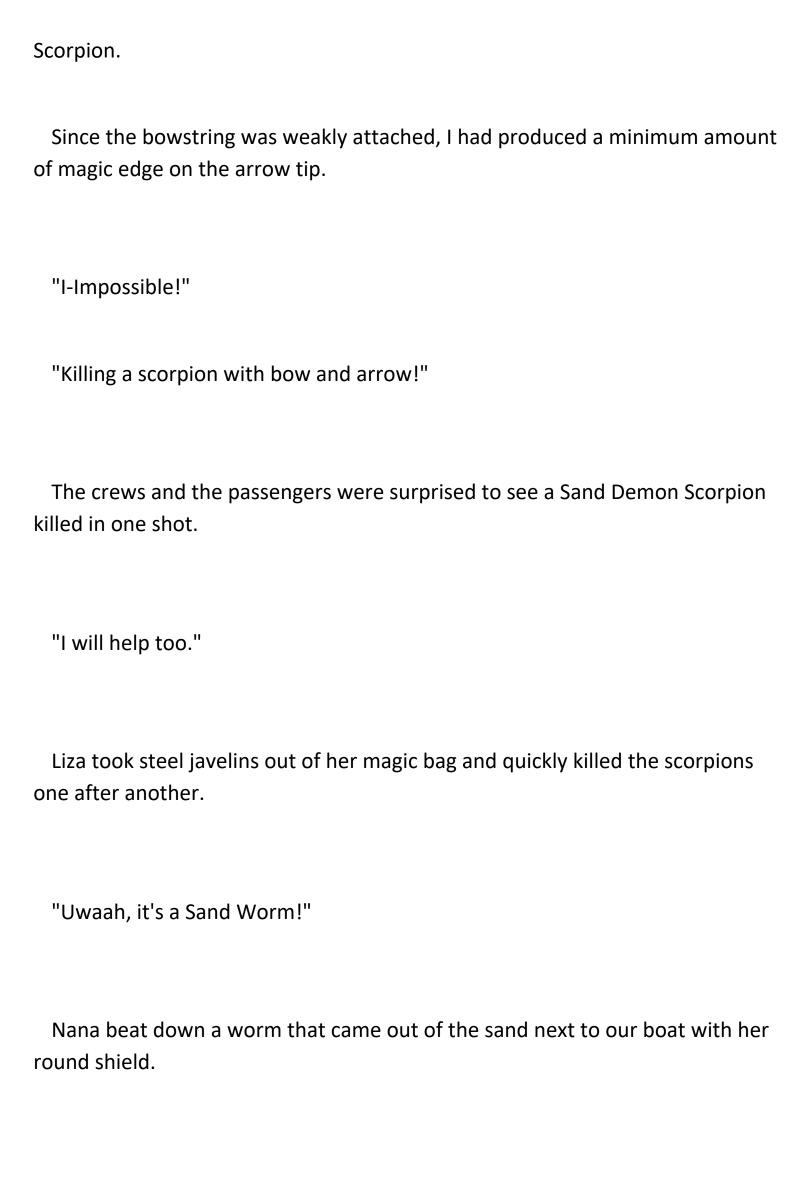
Once the chant is over, a rope stretches out of the ship's bow moving like a living creature and twirls around the Sand Demon Scorpion, stopping it from sinking into the sand.

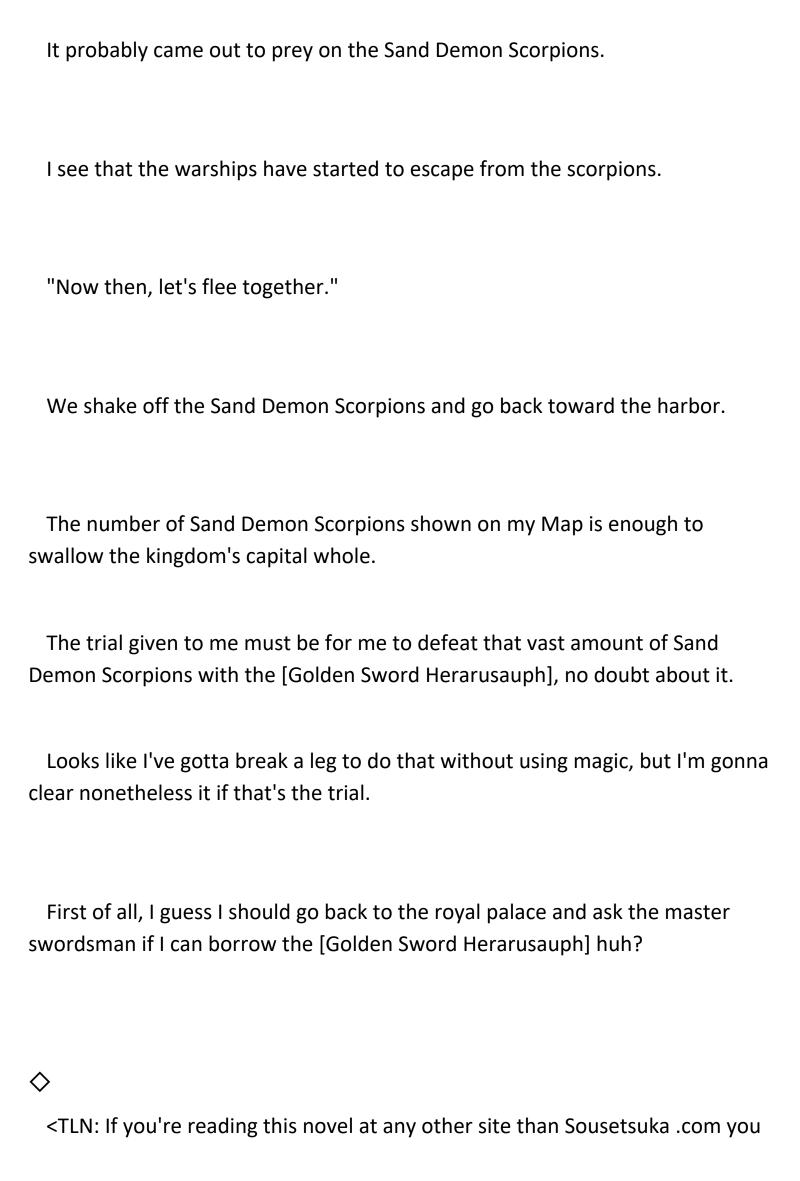
This time the warship crews are frantically pulling the rope up. Looks like the last spurt is done with human strength.

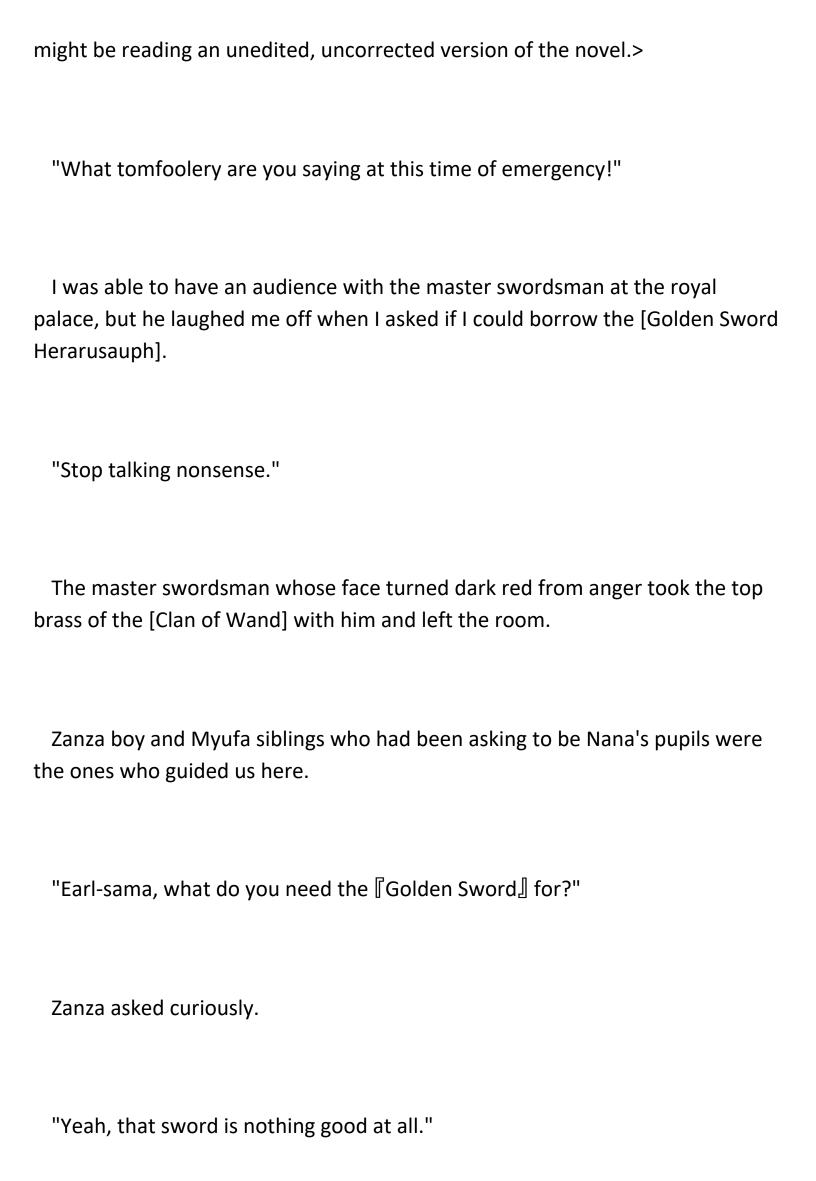
Meanwhile, the three swordsmen are leisurely sitting on top of the Sand Demon Scorpion.

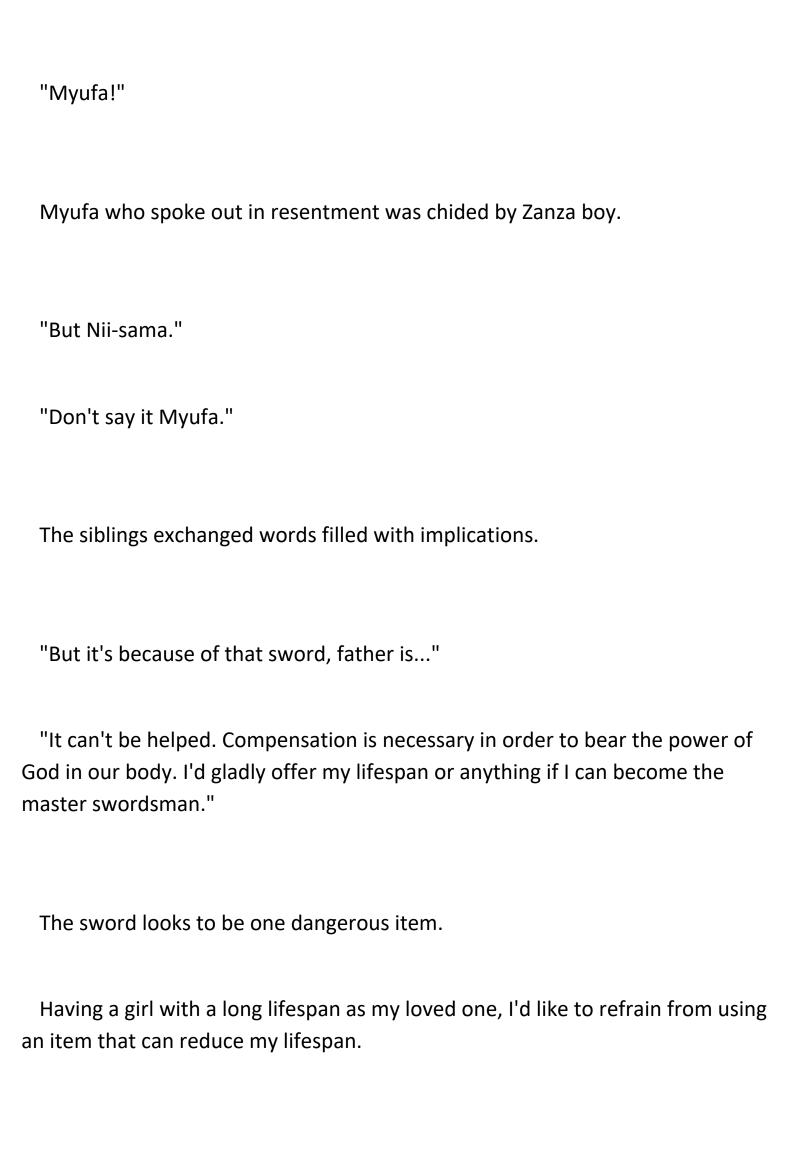












Maybe I should make an imitation of the [Golden Sword Herarusauph] the master swordsman carry and use that instead?

God Heraruon's orders were [Show that you can bring it to an end as my representative], and [Once people revere my name far and wide, I shall give thee the proof], therefore, as long as the people think the one I have to be the real thing, it should be okay, I think.

"Zanza, Myufa! What are you doing loafing around here! Get to the assembly quick!"

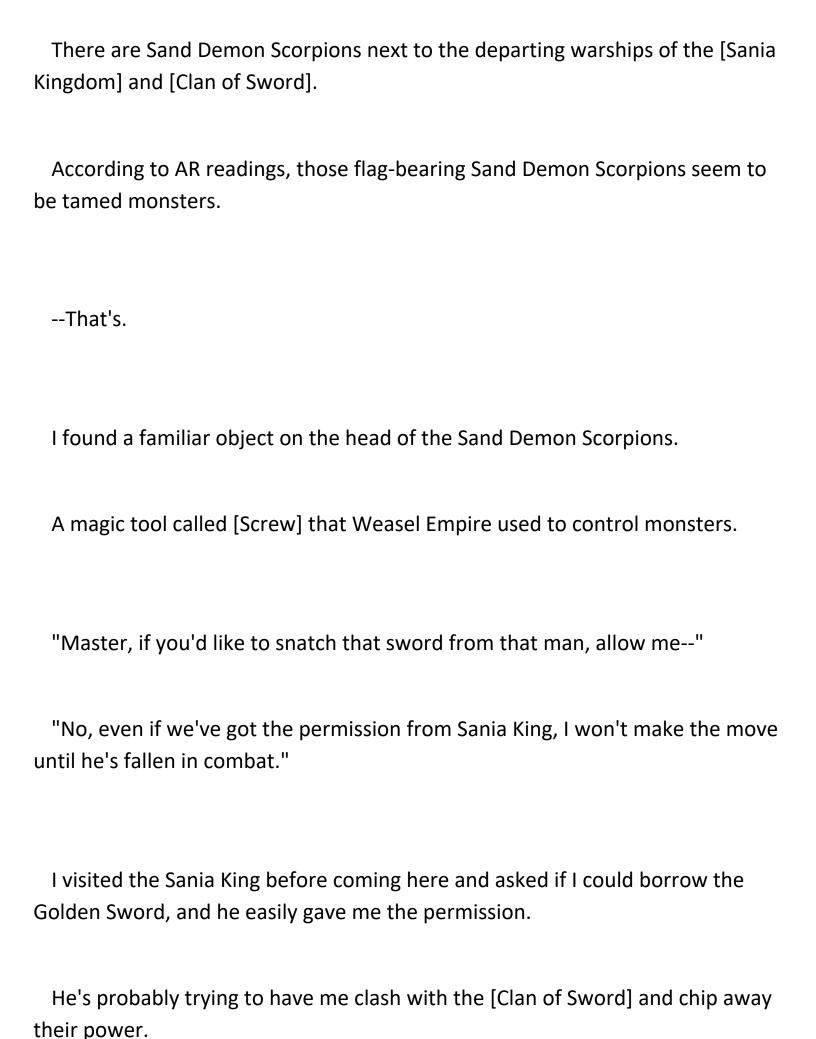
Zanza boy and Myufa got taken away by a man who came for them.

According to the Map information, Sania Kingdom's troops have started fighting the Sand Demon Scorpions in the Small Sand Sea, but they've only come in contact with the small scale swarms.

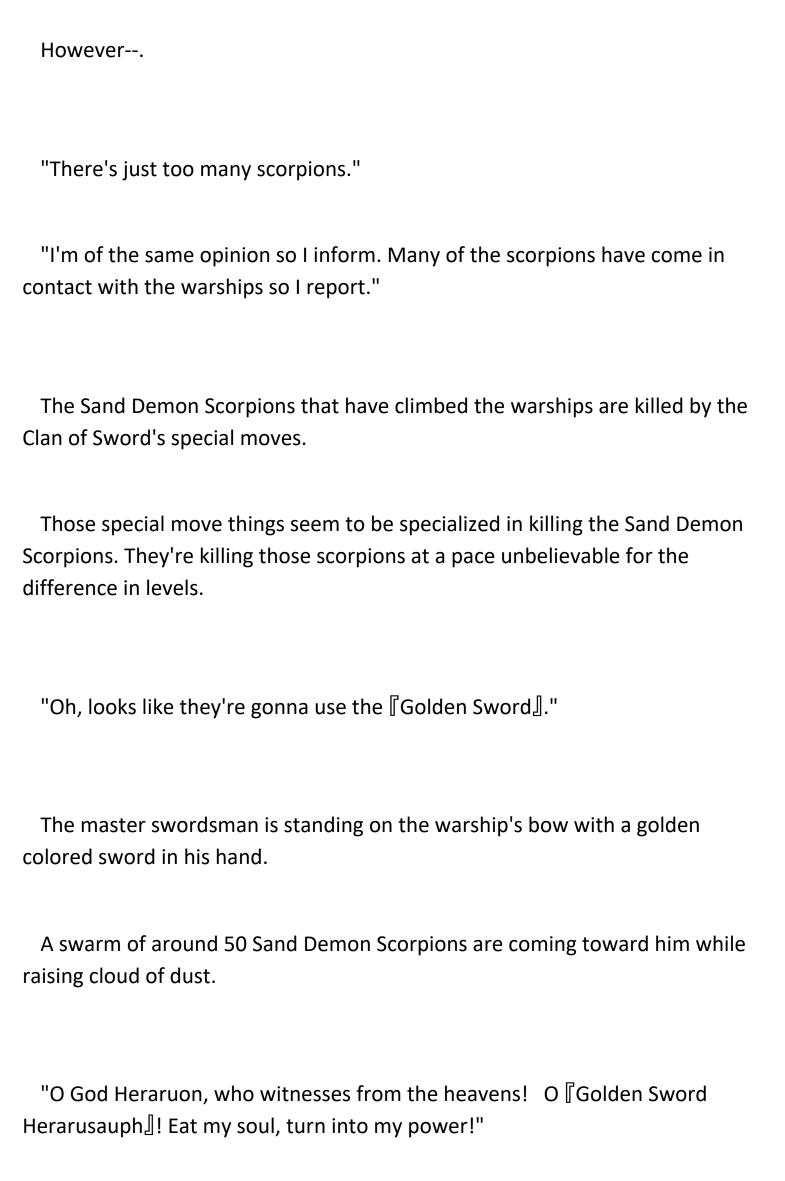
It should be about 5-6 hours before they collide with the real swarms.

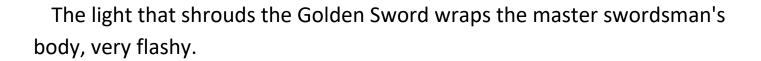


"I see, that's the [Clan of Sword]'s trump card huh."









"Secret Art--《Sun Slash》"

With one side slash of the master swordsman, around 70% of the 50 Sand Demon Scorpions have been neutralized.

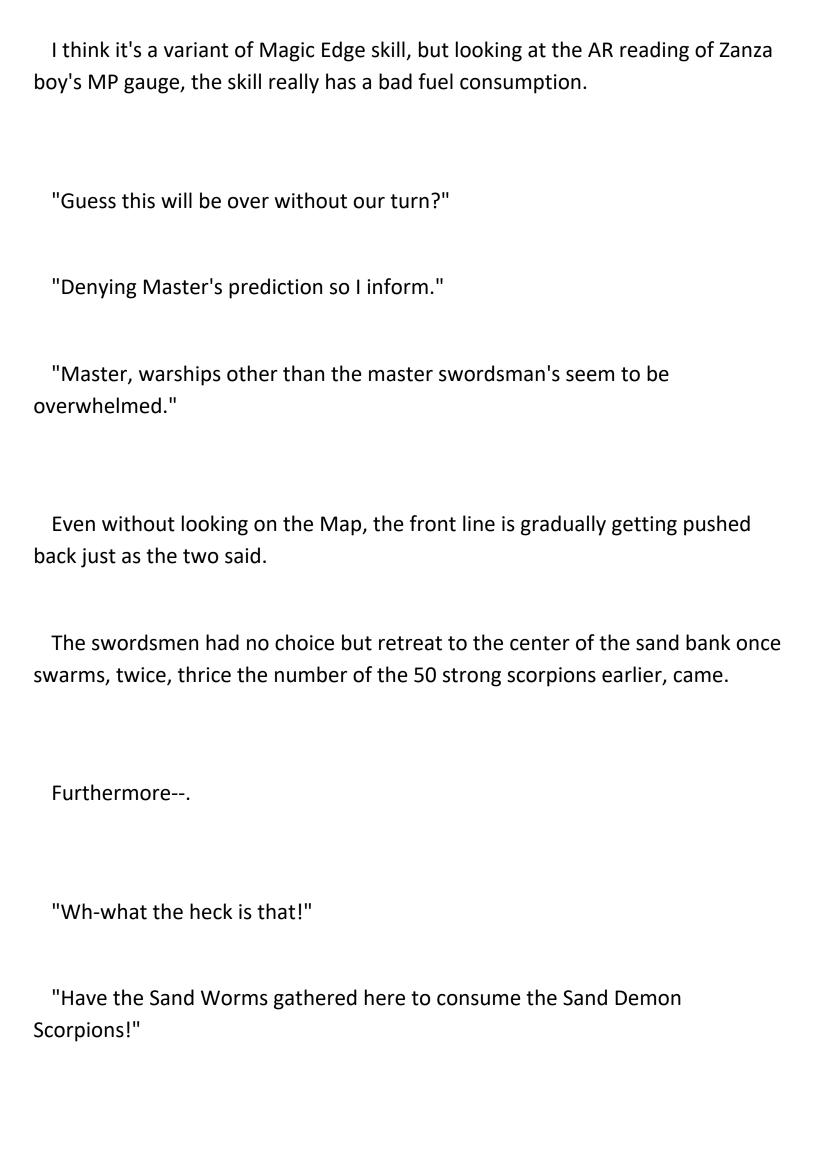
Swordsmen of the [Clan of Sword] leap onto the reduced swarm of Sand Demon Scorpions.

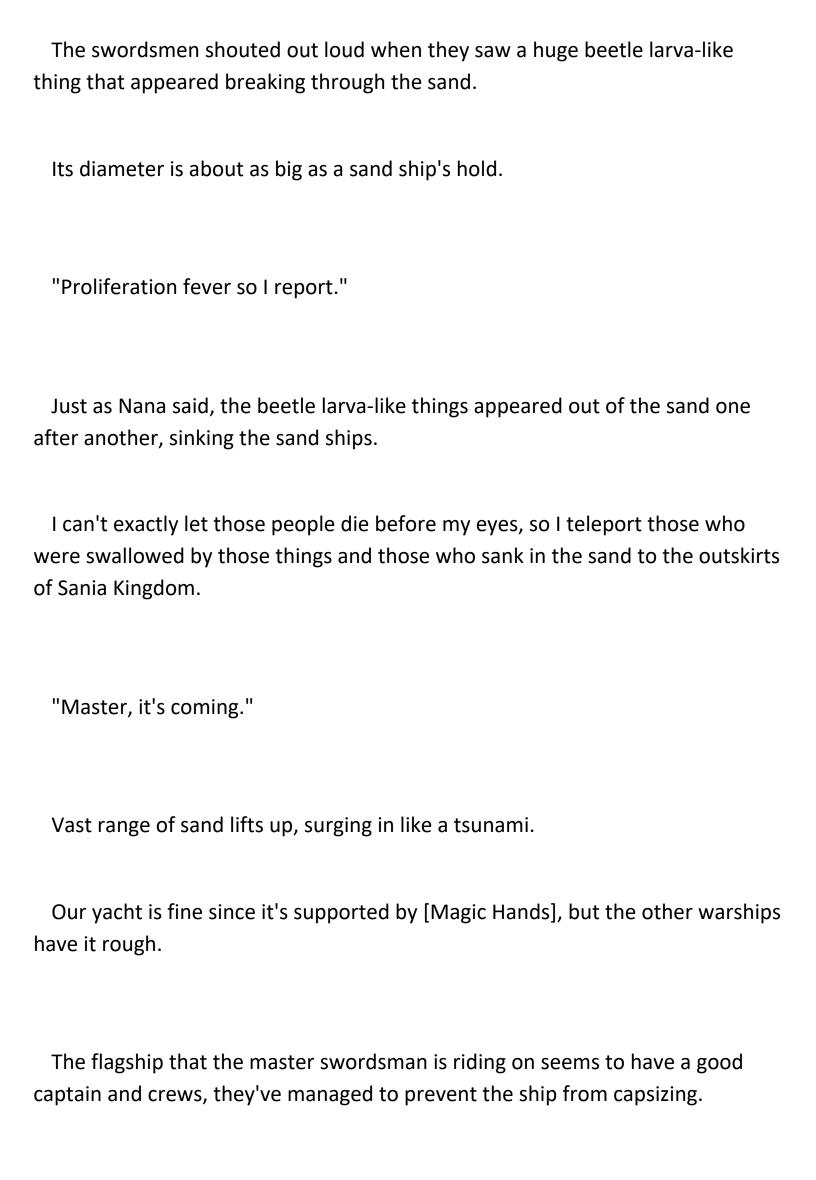
Zanza boy and Myufa were among them.

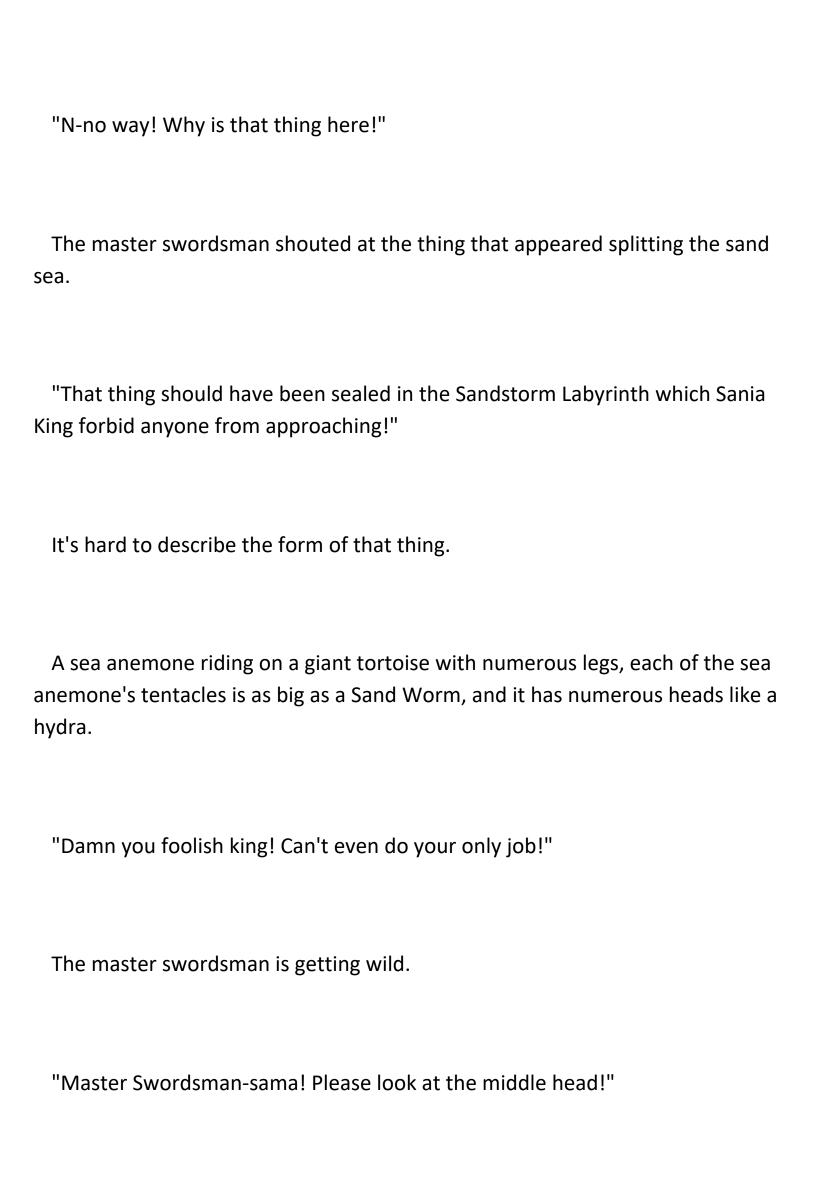
"Special Move--《Golden Sword》"

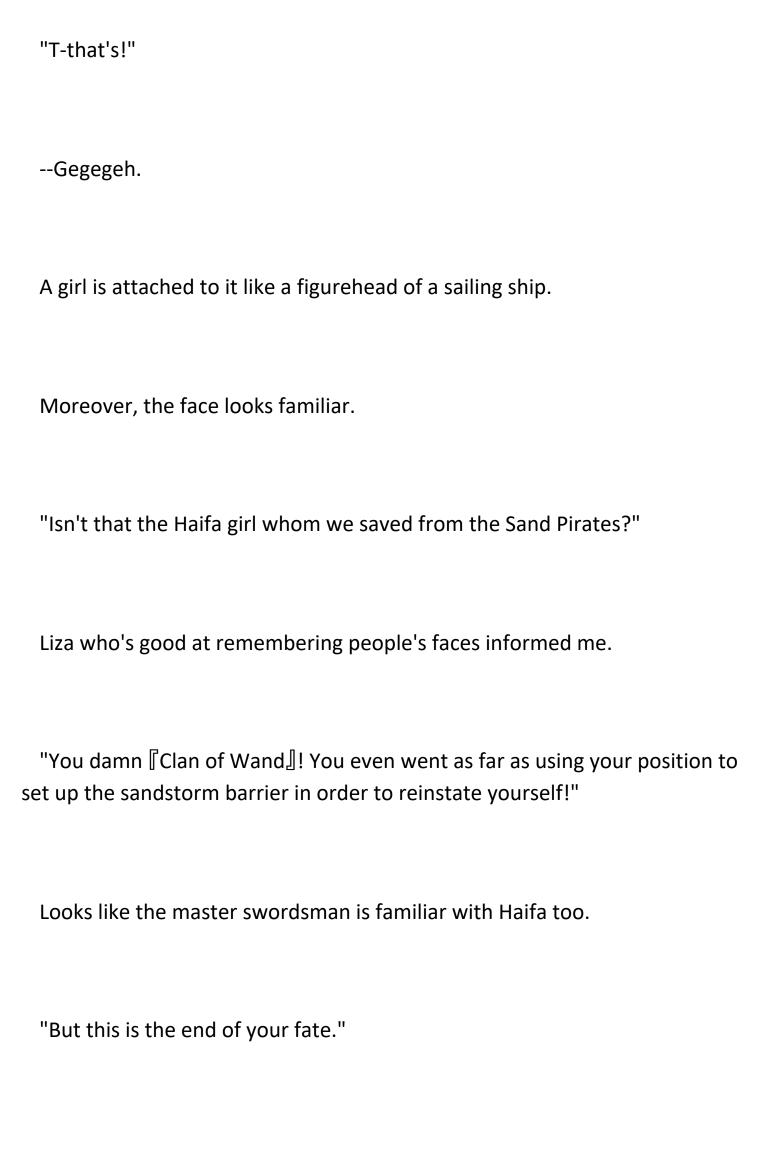
The silver mithril sword that Zanza boy has is wrapped in golden light.

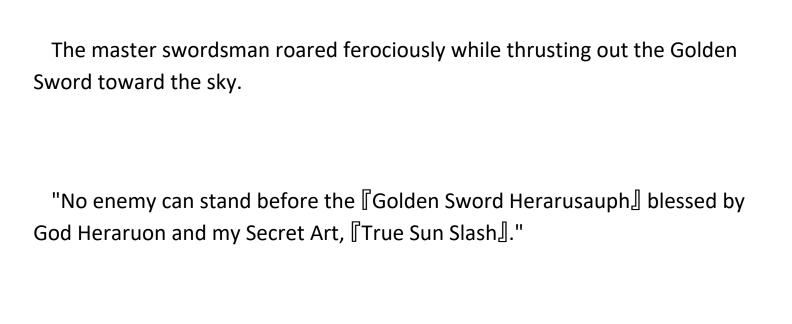
The sturdy Sand Demon Scorpion got cut up like butter when he slashed with the sword enshrouded in golden light.











The golden sword pointed to heaven is thrust forward with a snap.

"Perish--[Land King]"

The master swordsman whose whole body was emitting golden colored light launched himself upon the Land King to stake it all on a do or die battle.

16-22. Sania Kingdom (3)

Satou here. I have some knowledge about ways to exterminate gigantic creatures. It was from a robot anime I watched, many times I nodded in agreement at the methods used in it.

I never thought that I would end up putting that into practice myself until I came to another world though...



"Secret Art--《Sun Slash》"

I'm currently watching the Master Swordsman rushing toward the gigantic Land King.

A crescent-shaped golden light is approaching the Land King's head.

--GWAMWUEEEEEE.

The light exploded at the Land King's head, and the shock wave raised a cloud of dust.

"Did that do it?!"
The master swordsman went and raised a flag with his clichéd line while glaring at the cloud of dust as he fell.
Thought that's not really the reason, light pole-sized black whips come out of the dust cloud and assault the master swordsman.
"NUOOOOOOOOOO!"
The master swordsman parried the black whips.
The black whips and the <code>[Golden Sword Heraruoph]</code> clashed, scattering intense golden and black sparks around.
"He parried that well."
"He's also handling the next attacks well so I comment."
Liza and Nana exchanged their impressions of the master swordsman's fight while standing next to me.

"ТСННННННН"

The master swordsman managed to parry the blows from several of the whips, however, he couldn't deal with a black whip coming diagonally from above and jumped up to evade it.

He's unexpectedly nimble for a heavyweight-class mass of muscles.

"Master, desperate situation so I inform."

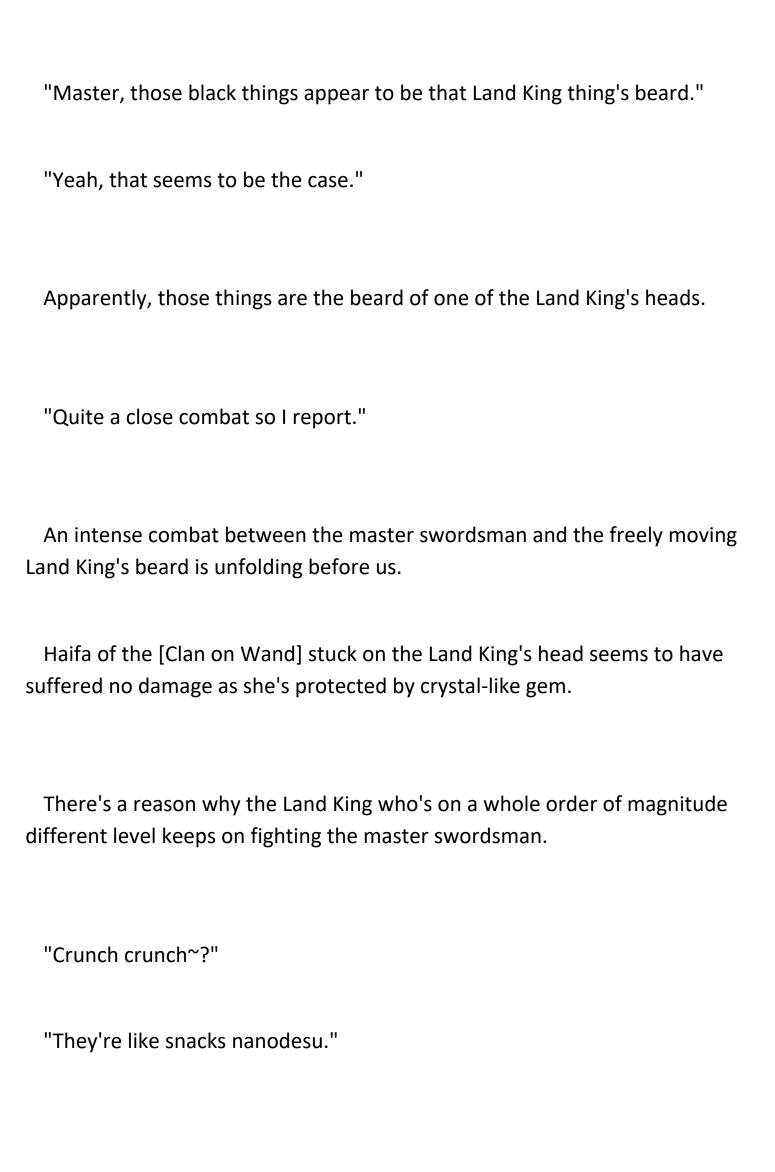
Four black whips charged in to attack the master swordsman in air.

"Secret Art--<<Scorpion Ball>>"

The master swordsman made use of the recoil from using the move.

What a desperate battle if I ever see one.

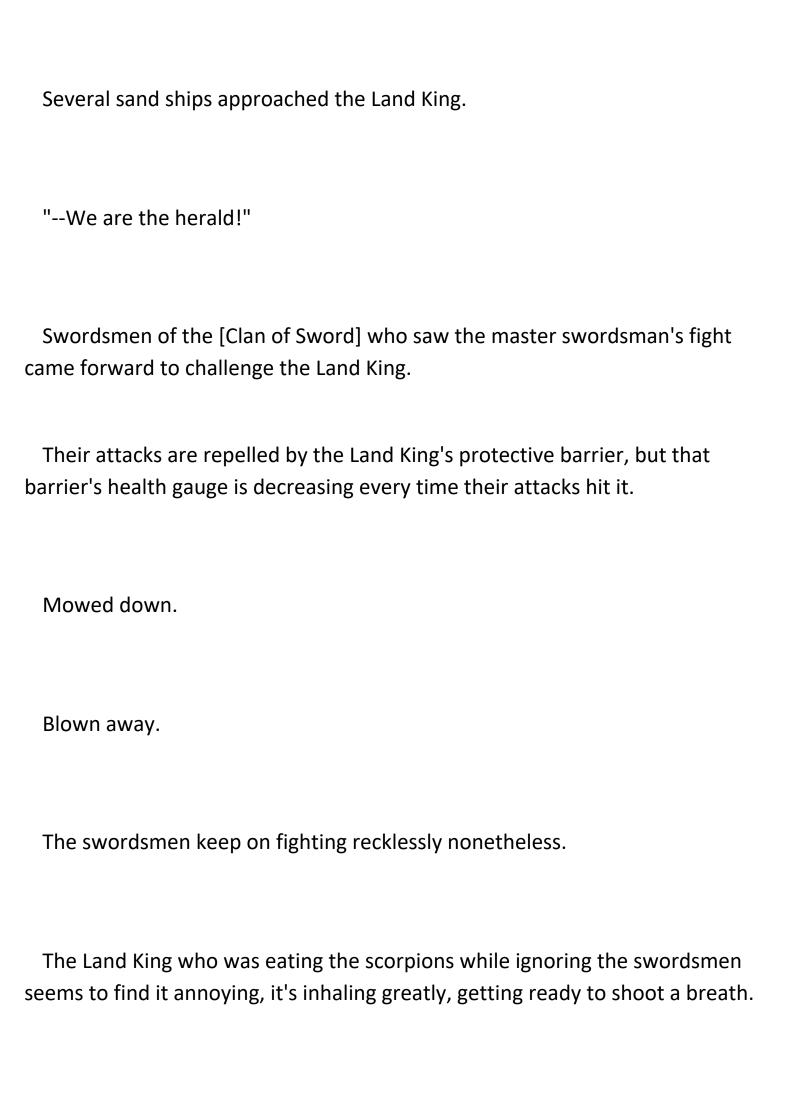
The identity of the black whips came to light when the cloud of dust cleared away.

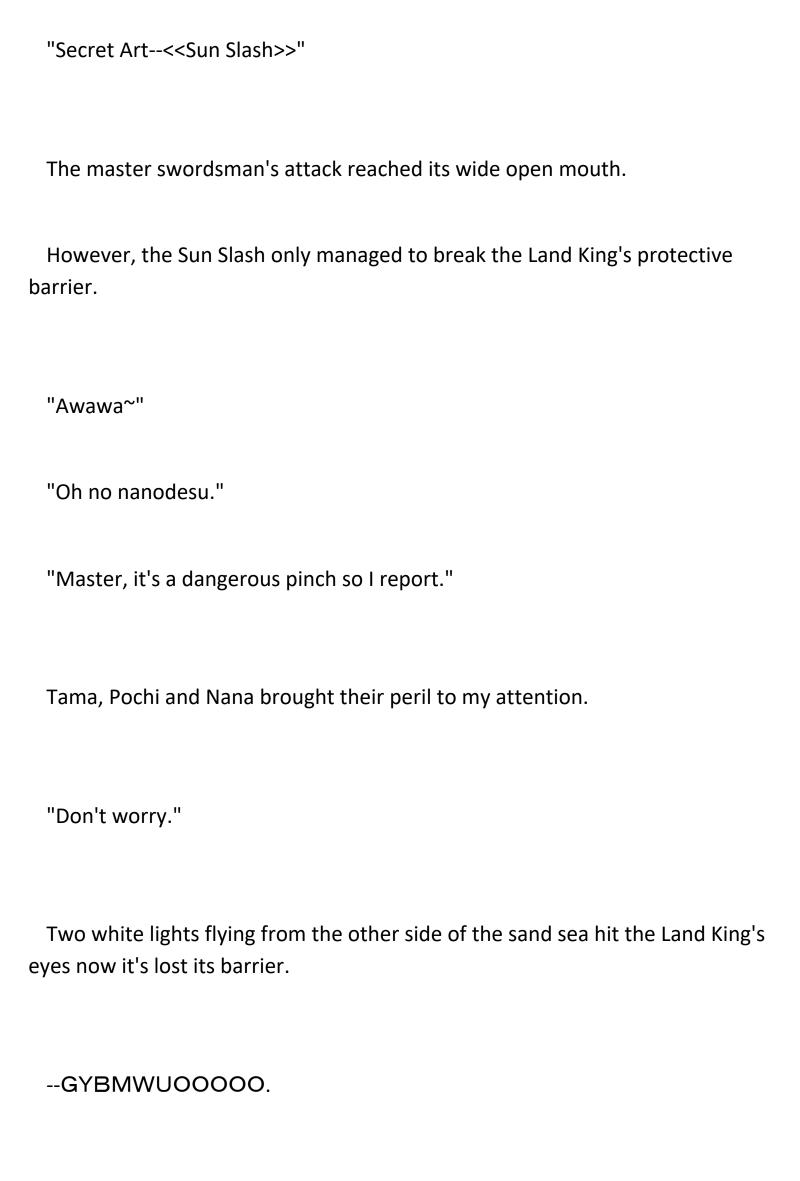


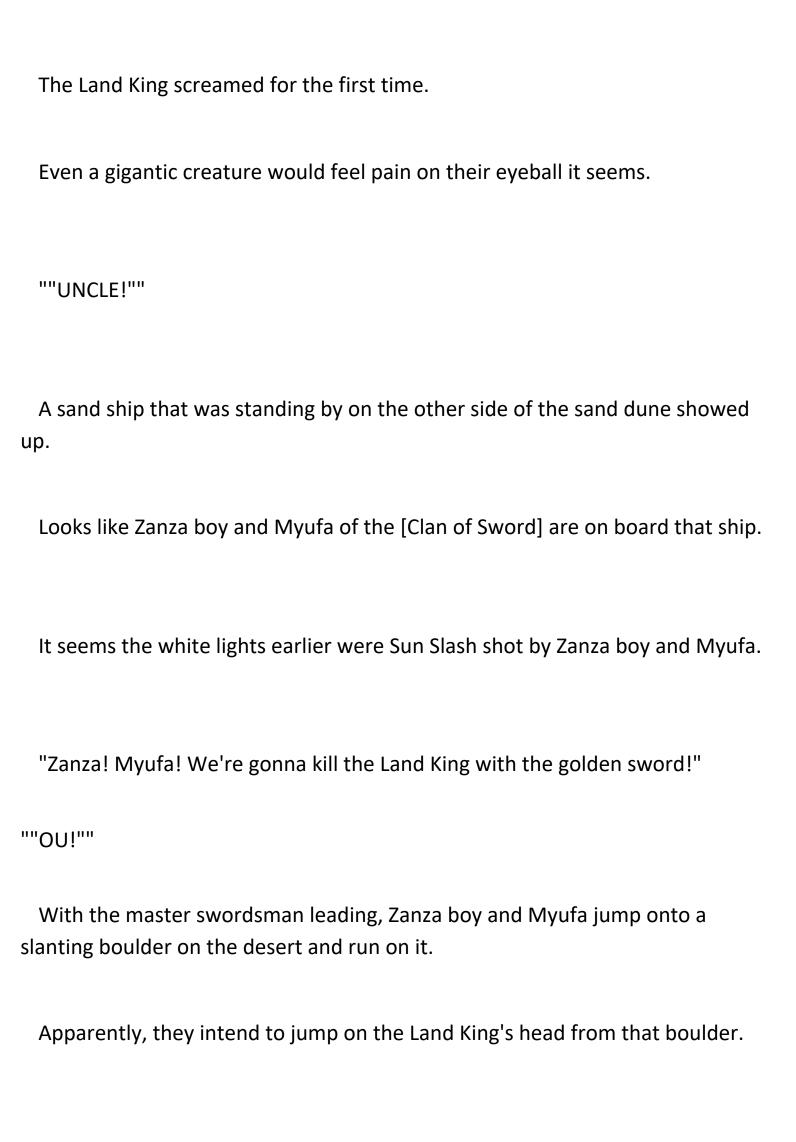
Just like the two said, tentacles growing from the sea anemone on the Land King's back have been catching the fleeing Sand Demon Scorpions, bringing them to its mouth and crunching on them. Its attacks on the master swordsman feel more like swinging your hand to shoo a bug away than to kill an enemy of equal level. But well, I have to praise the master swordsman who manages to keep parrying attacks that would have been fatal if even one hit him. "Is the school over already, you two?" "Aye aye sir~" "Pochi made sure to do the end of blast greeting too nodesu." The two made the shutan pose when Liza asked. Pochi probably meant to say [end of class] there.

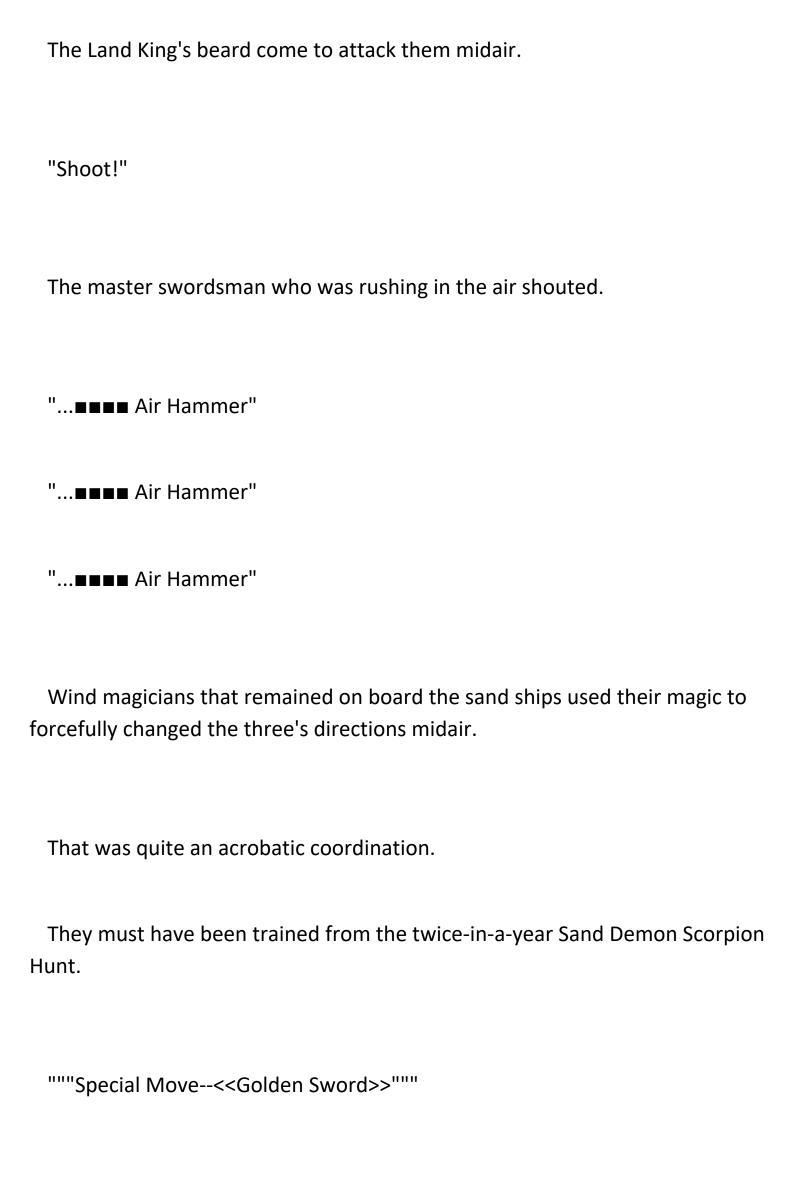
"Master, the master swordsman's reinforcement so I report."

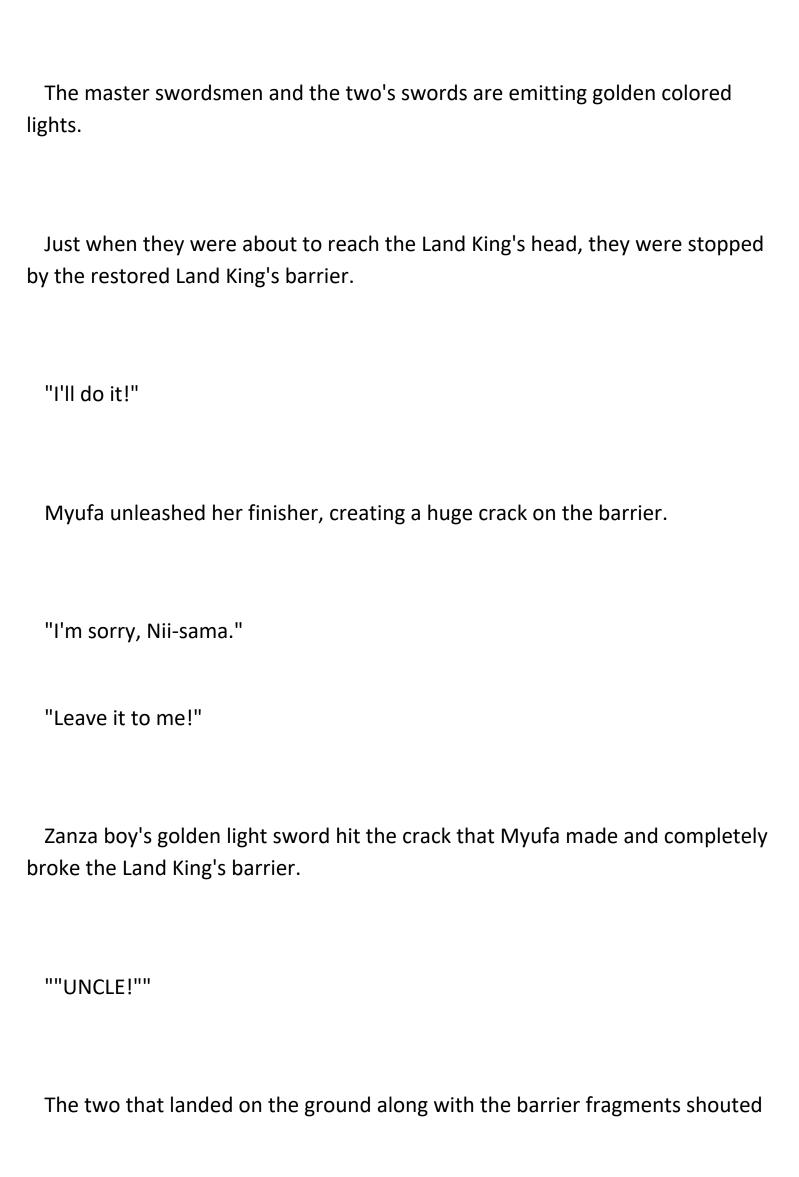
Tama and Pochi suddenly showed their faces up from the shadow on my feet.

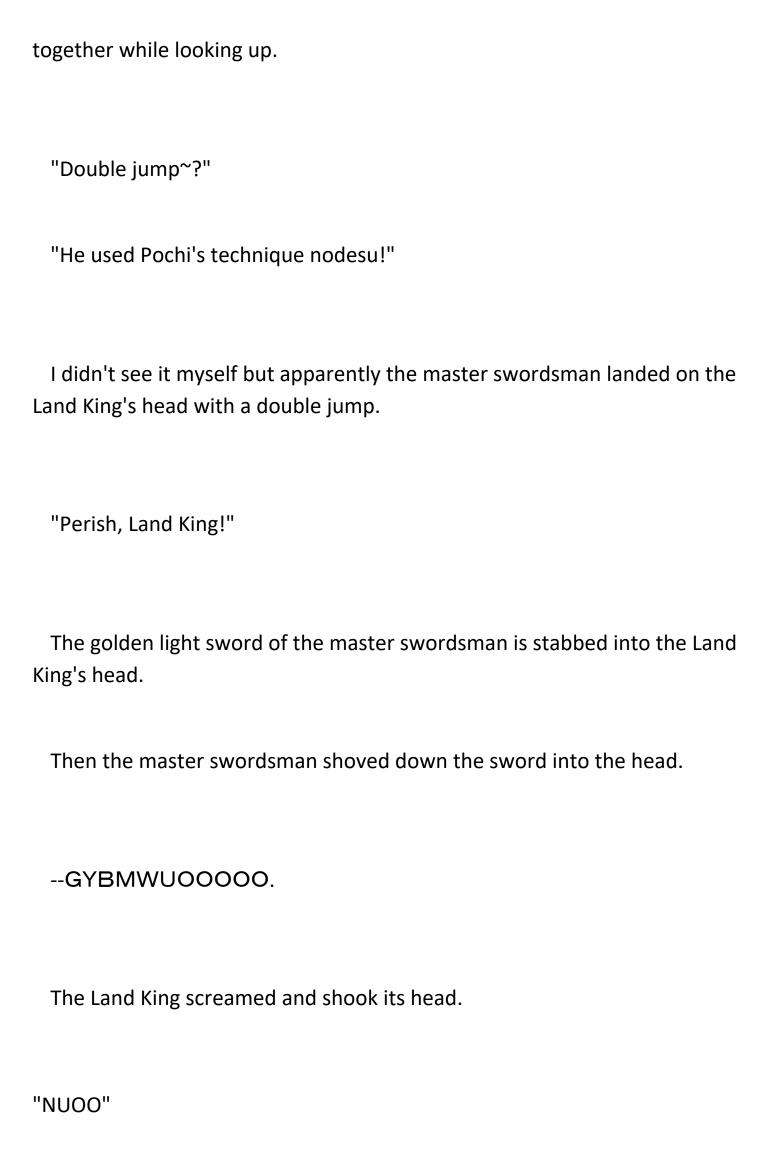


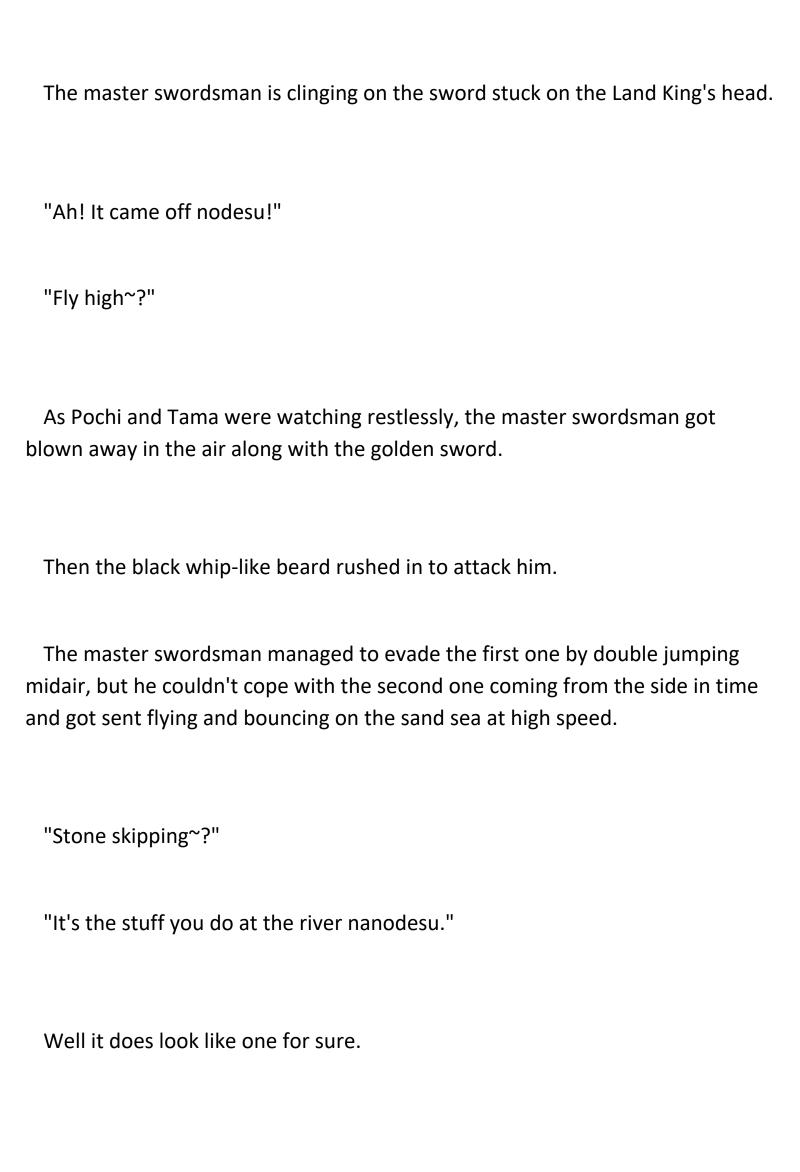












The golden sword that fell from his hand is sinking into the sand sea. I lengthen the [Magic Hand] and put the golden sword in the sand into my storage. I'll teleport the master swordsman who's sinking in the sand to the outskirts of Sania Kingdom like with the others. Priests and magicians have gathered at the outskirts, probably because I've been teleporting people there. They surely would receive treatment in time even if I leave them alone now. "Master, should we intervene, so I ask." "No we can't do it here as that won't clear the trial's condition." God Heraruon's order was to show off his power to the kingdom's populace, therefore the Land King has to get a bit closer the kingdom's shore.

I'll make sure to decrease the number of victim as much as possible for the

time being.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Master, the Land King has come into view so I report."

The Land King finally came into our view after we teleported back to Sania Kingdom and waited at a high ground.

It should arrive at the port in an hour.

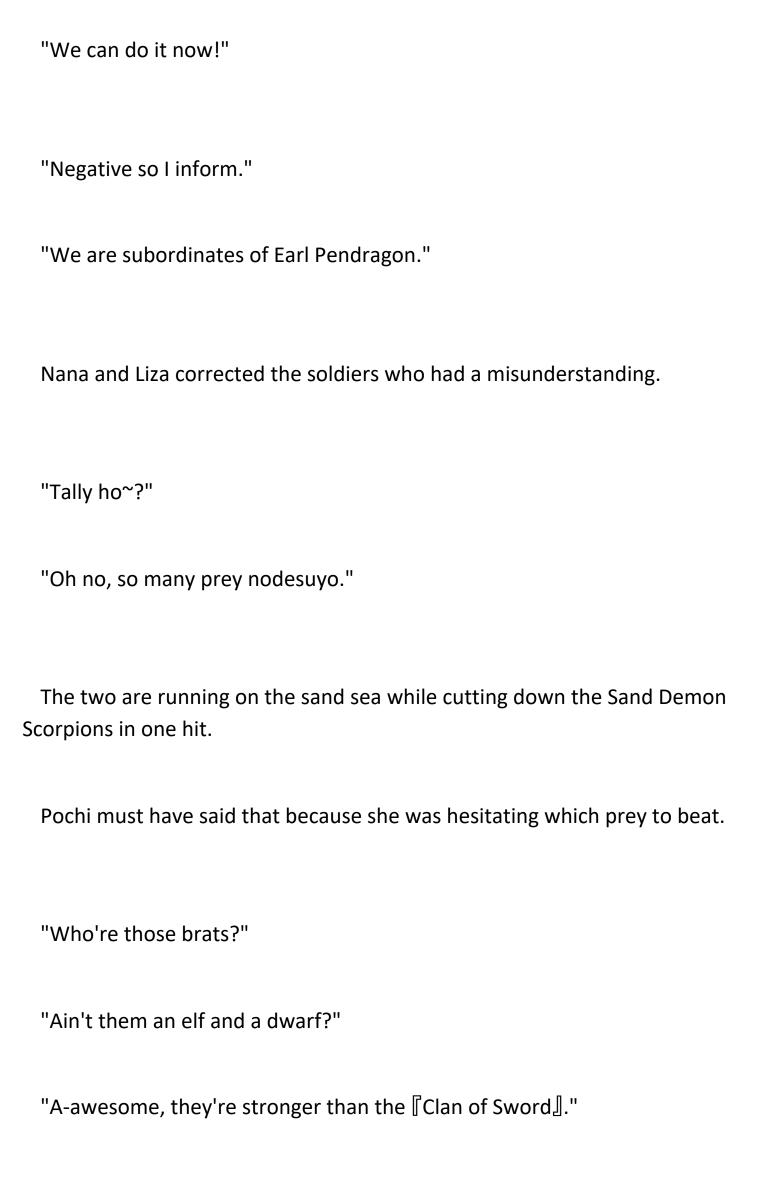
Swarms of Sand Demon Scorpions that are running away from the Land King have arrived at the port first.

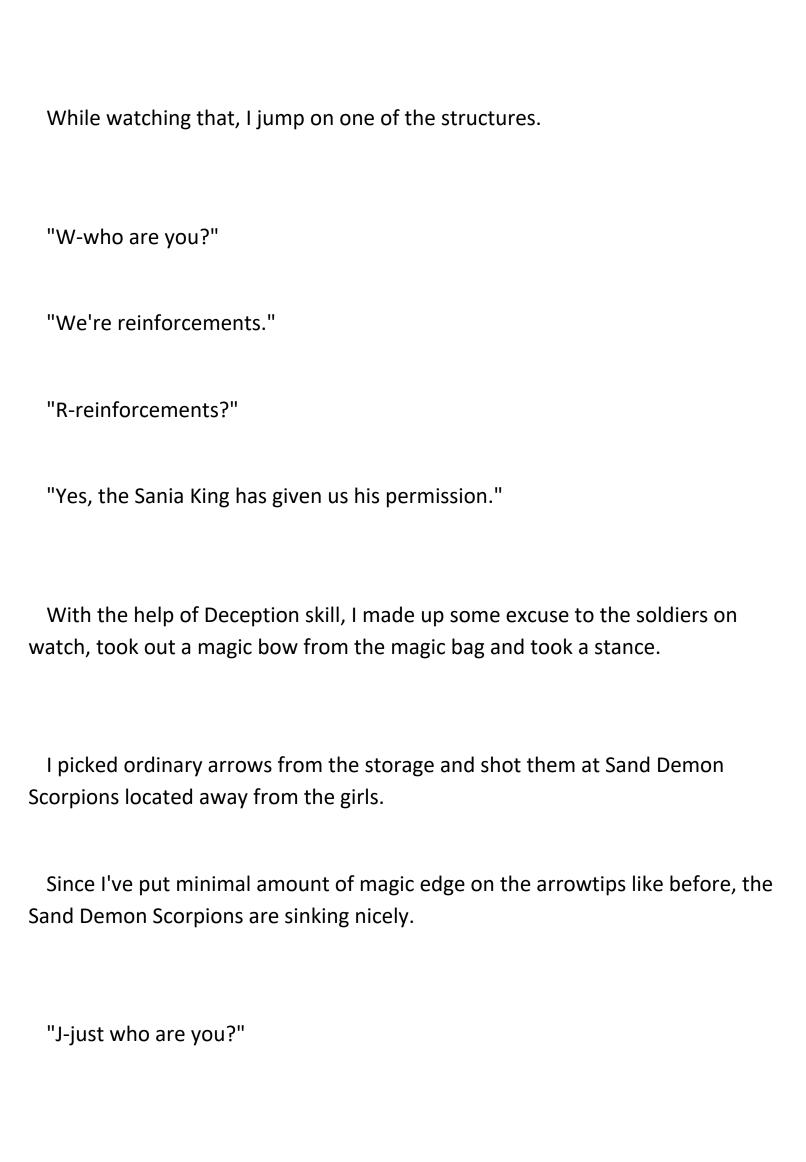
Sania Kingdom's regular army and magicians are fighting them back, but they're having a hard time since the main forces, the [Clan of Sword] and the [Clan of Wand] aren't with them.

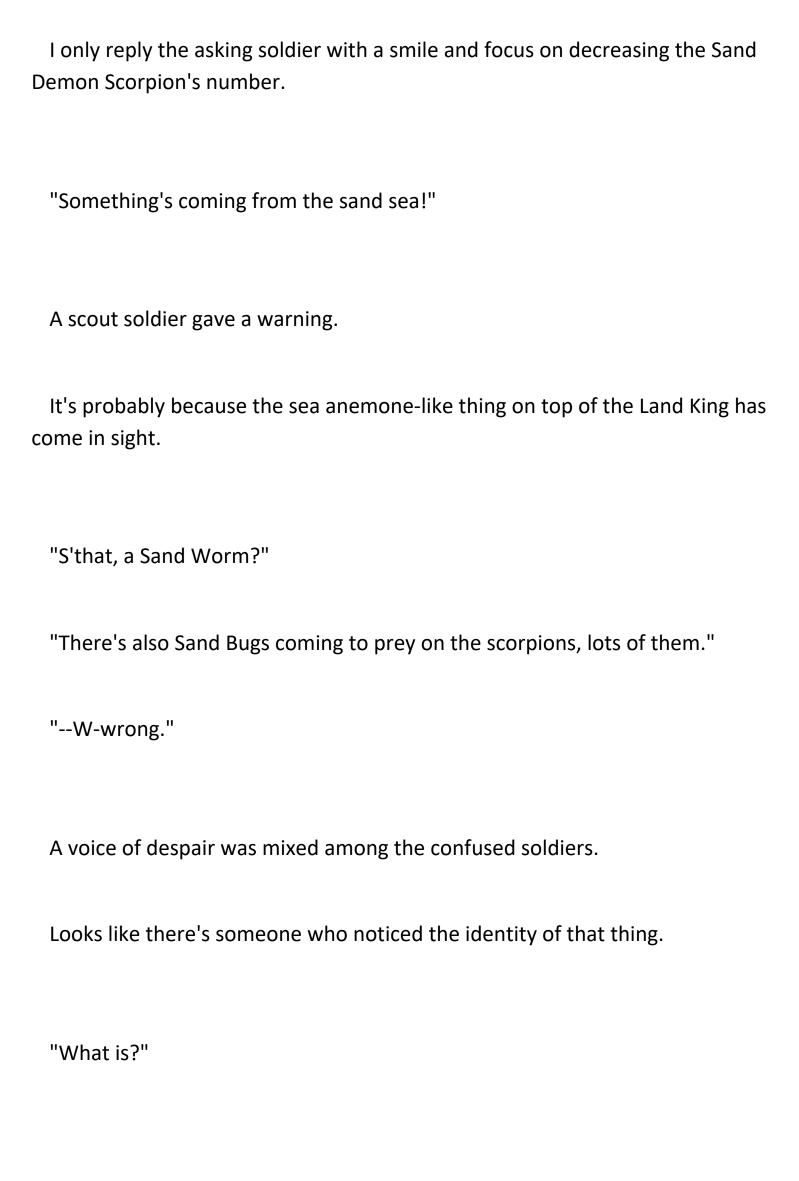
"It should be some time before the Land King arrive, let's give them a hand."

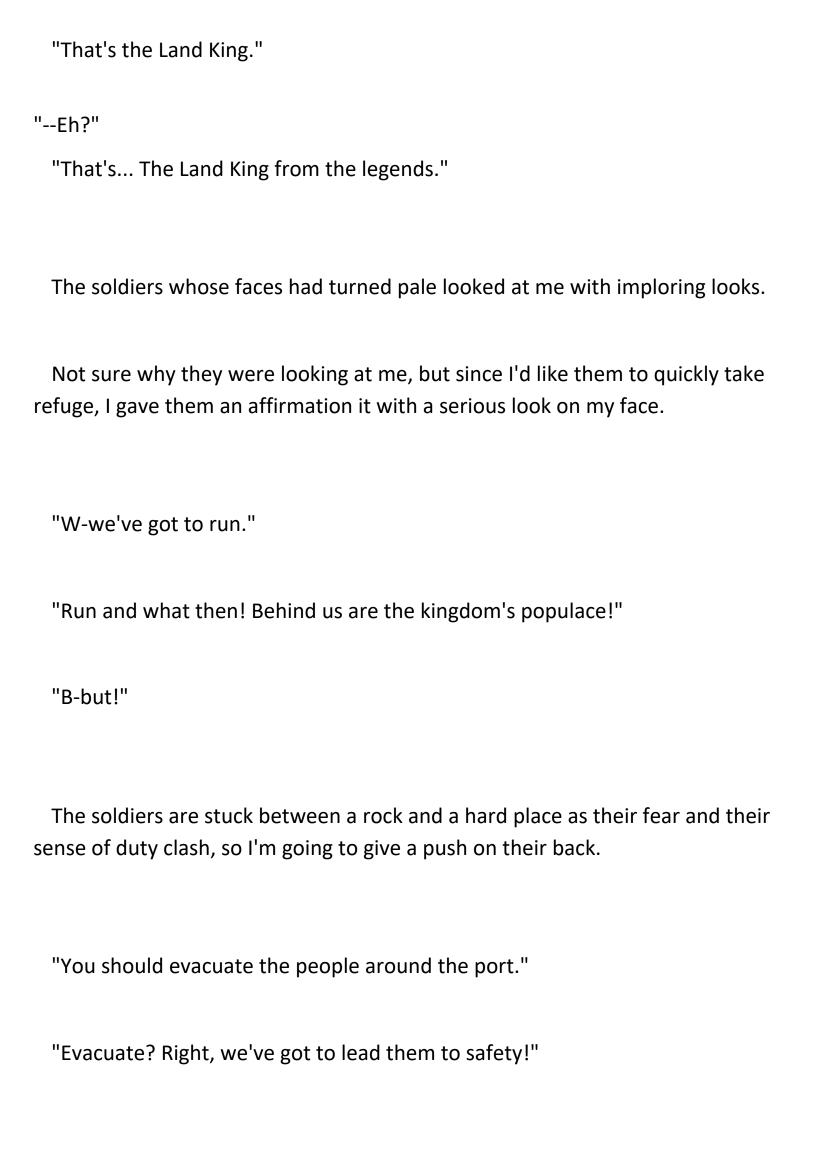
[&]quot;Aye aye sir~"

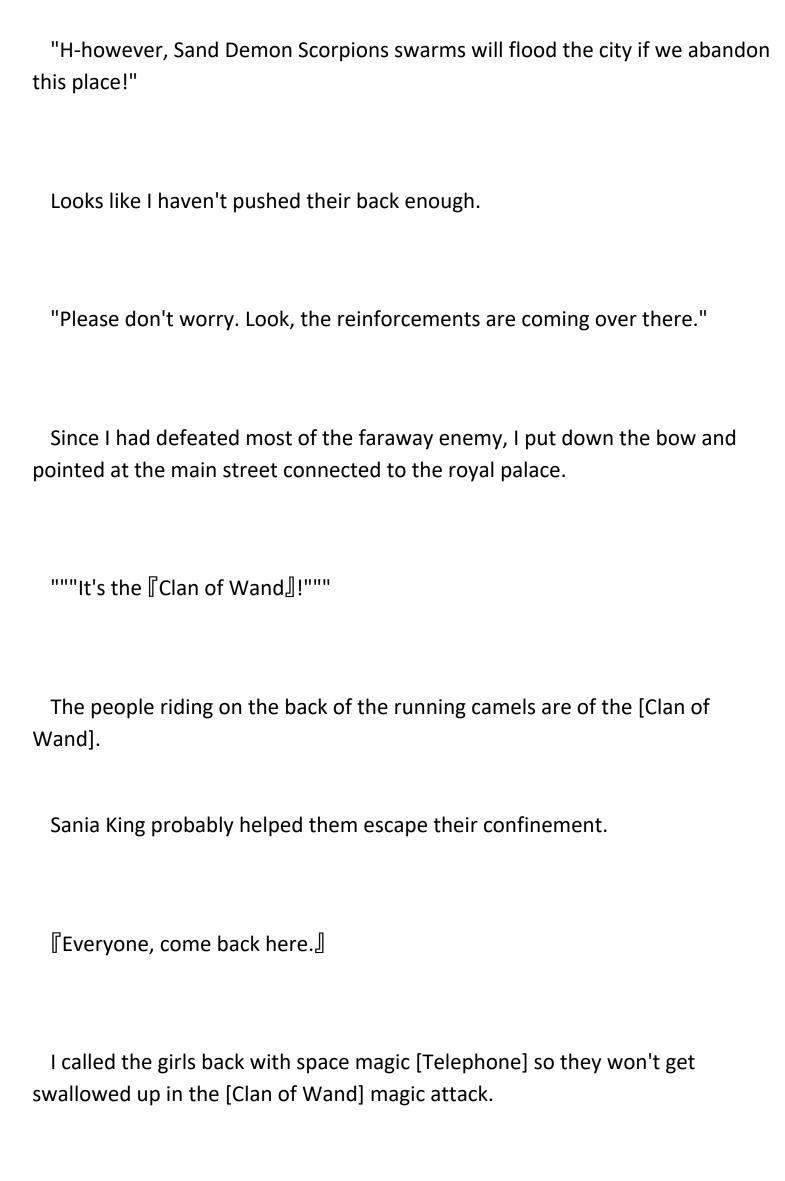
"Roger nanodesu."
Tama and Pochi replied with the shupin pose, Liza and Nana nodded like they were saying "I've been waiting for this."
We jumped off the high ground and went from roof to roof toward the port.
Fort-like structures and iron fences buried in the sand are working to hold the Sand Demon Scorpions back from landing on the port.
However, the structures are squeaking, the iron fences are distorting.
Really drives down the feeling that Sania Kingdom is in a precarious situation right now.
"We'll back you up, so I gallantly inform."
Nana positioned herself between the soldiers and the Sand Scorpions, and cut off the scorpion's scissors in one slash.
"""The 『Clan of Sword』 are here!""""

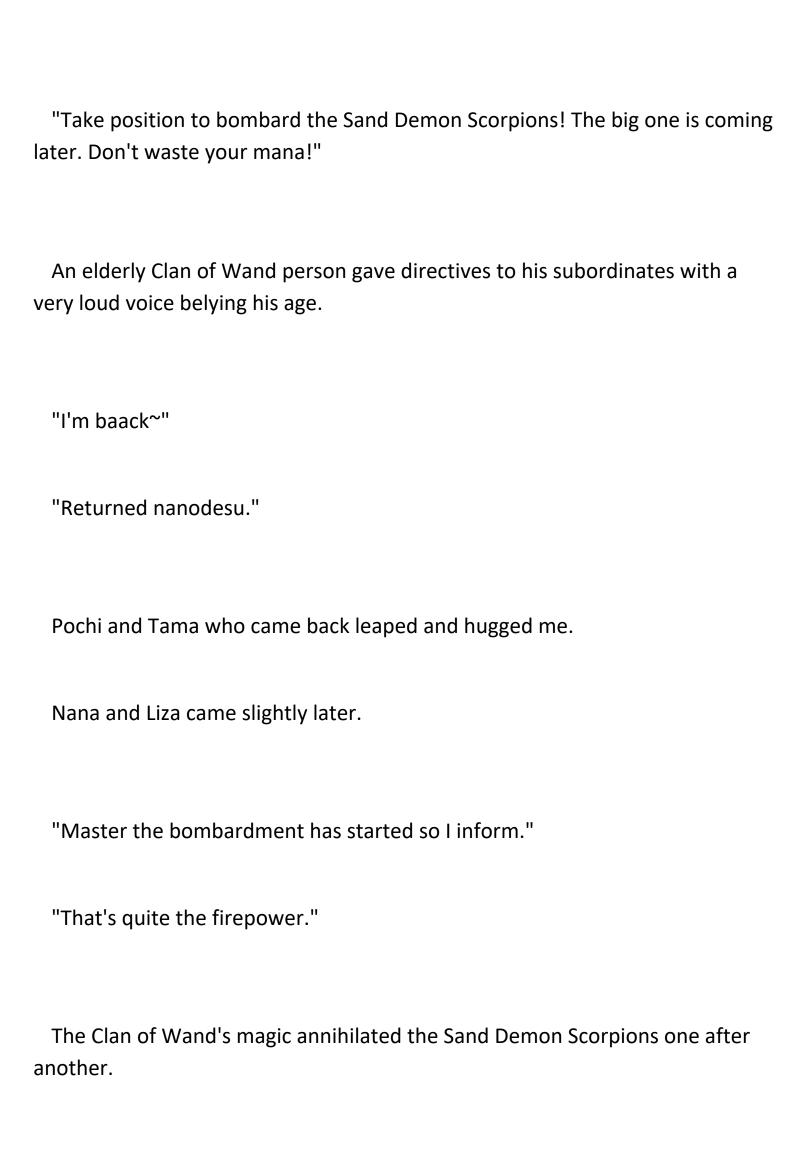




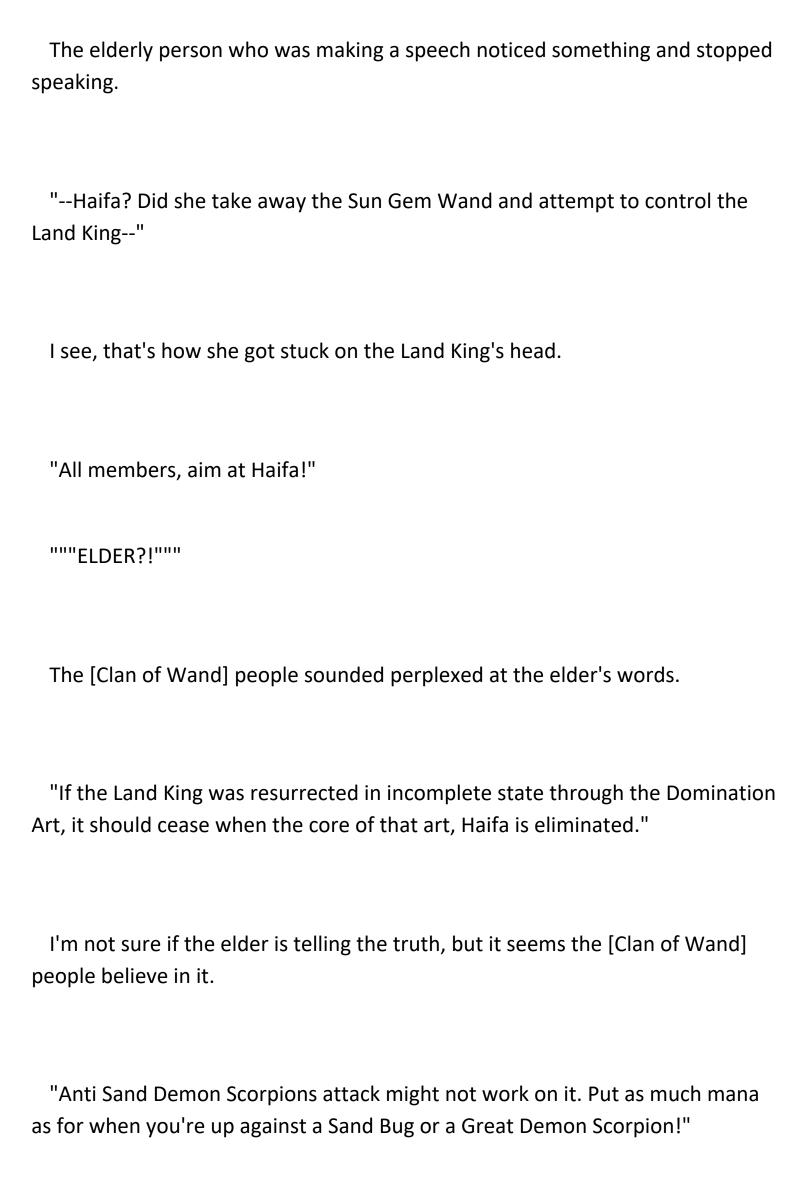








Vivid enough to make [Clan of Sword] and regular army's struggle earlier seem sad in comparison.
The magic Clan of Wand used looks like explosion magic at a glance, but it's slightly different than the explosion magic we use.
A magic circle is produced before the wand before the magic is invoked, then that magic circle compresses the user's mana and shoots out.
I've never seen the formation of that magic circle, I think it's a local technique of Sania Kingdom.
It kinda feels similar to the vile magic circle Demon Lord Believers used somehow, but investigating further is too much work, ignoring it should be fine as long as the sparks don't come flying here.
"Now then, looks like it's about time for the star performer to take the stage."
The Land King is coming closer the port.
"Do not fret! With our [Clan of Wand] secret move, a creature that's merely big"



The [Clan of Wand] point their wands at the Land King.

Similar to the one Haifa carried, topaz-like gems are attached on the tips. Those don't seem to be Sun Gem.

And when they finished chanting, countless magic cannons were shot from the wands at about the same time.

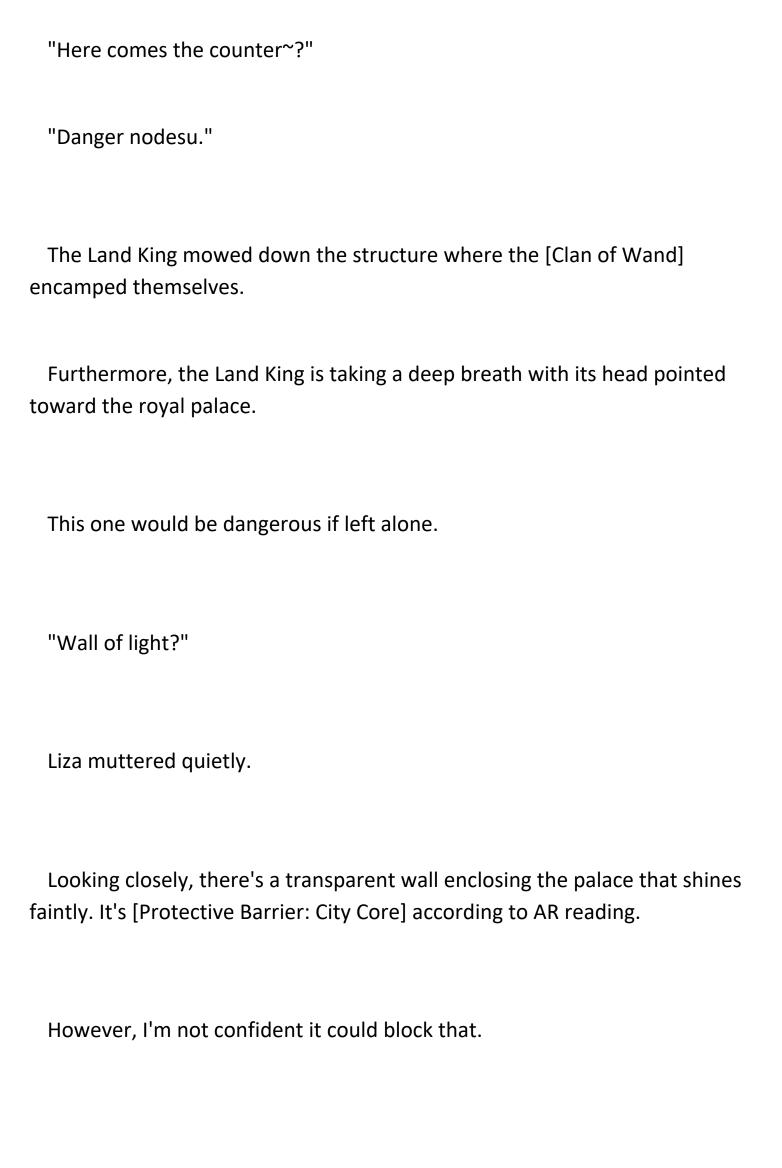
"Tamaya~"

"Kagiya nanodesu!"

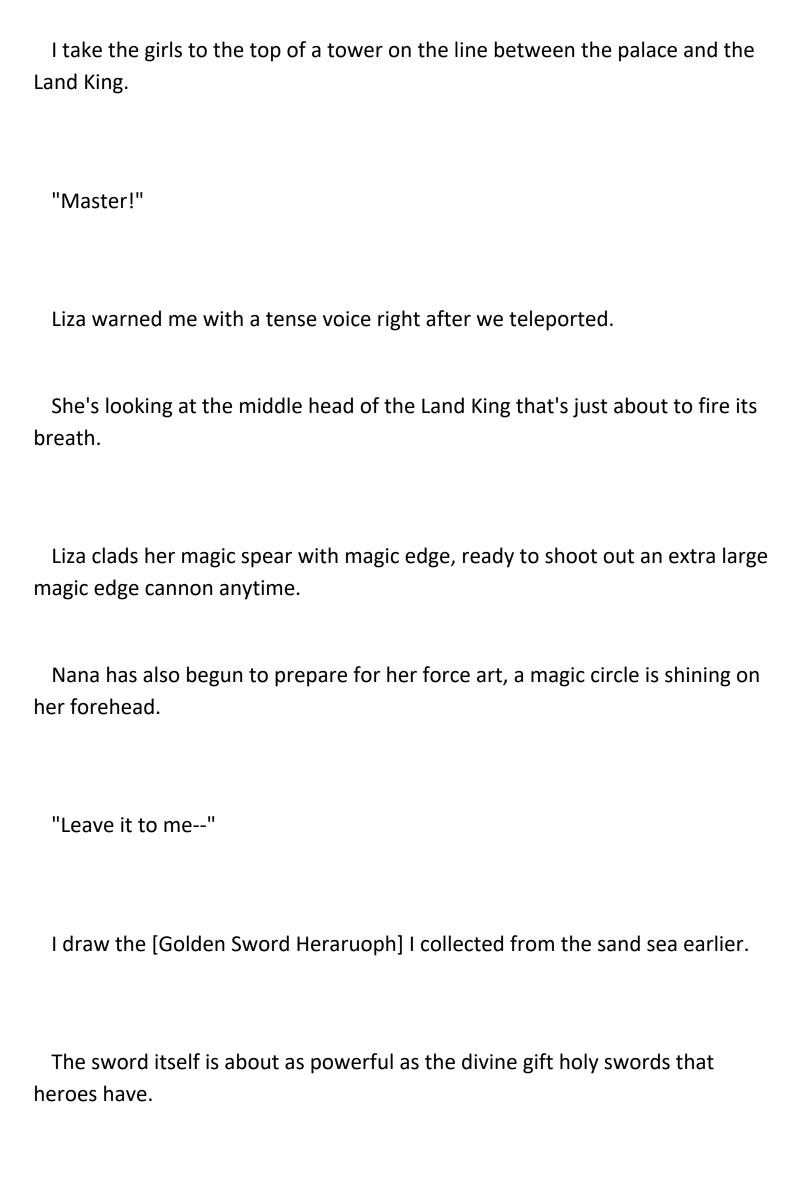
Tama and Pochi shouted like they were watching fireworks.

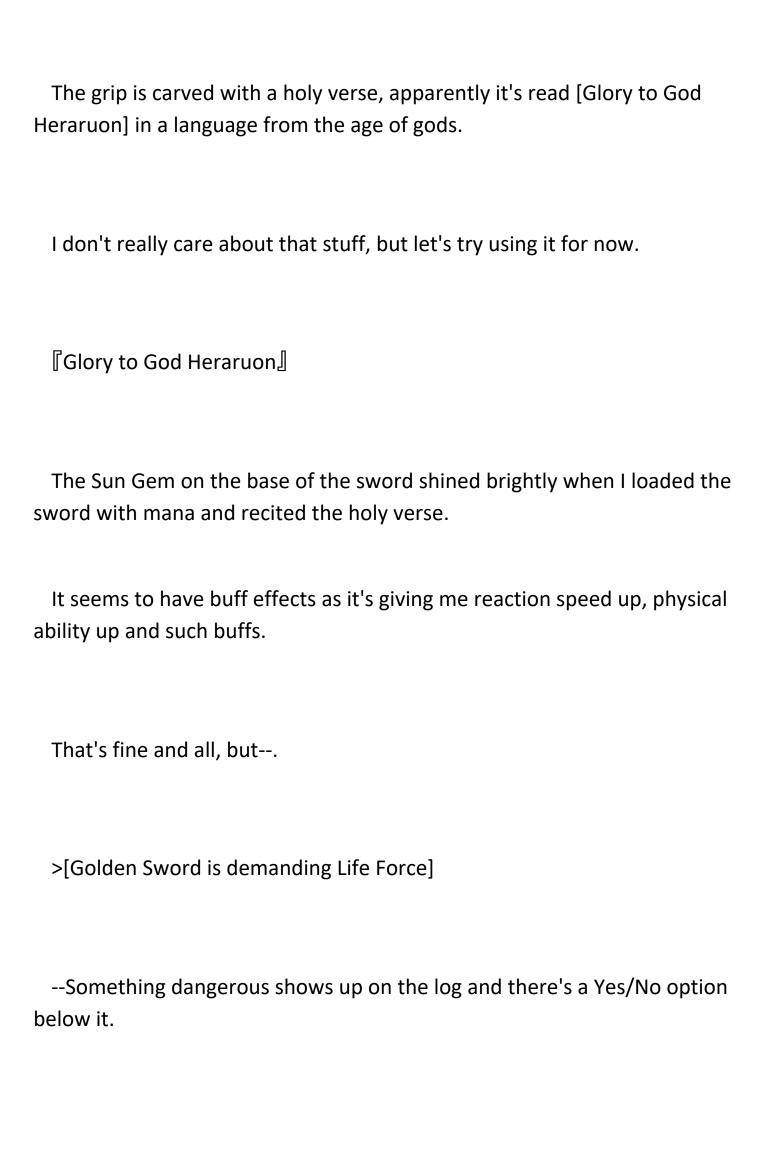
The magic cannons hit the Land King's barrier and broke it into pieces, scattering crystal-like glitters around. Quite a sight to behold.

The offensive capability of these attacks didn't seem to rival the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] that the master swordsman had, the Land King suffered little damage having only its outer skin scorched.



"Everyone, let's go."
It's hero time.
16-23. Land King's Subjugation Fight
Satou here. Directions in a play are important. Viewer's impression change greatly depending on the way one presents the play. Doing everything yourself, though rarely happen in tv shows and such, will have the opposite effect when found out, so you can even say that it's a forbidden move to take.
\diamond
"Master, it's dangerous, perilous so I report."
Light particles have gathered in the open mouth of the Land King.
That's probably a preliminary stage of the Breath. Its aim must be the royal palace.
"You're right. Let's go help them."





I don't mind if it's simply using the health or stamina gauges, but not if it's draining my life and soul.

I promptly choose [No] and decide not to use the [Golden Sword Heraruoph]'s true power.

--GWAMWUEEEEEE.

The land king fired a dark red beam kind of breath.

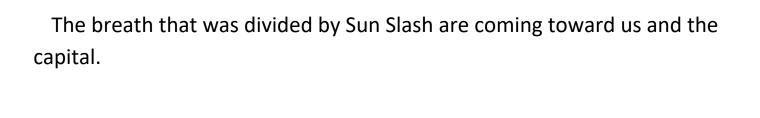
"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

I shouted the special technique those swordsmen were using out loud and unleashed the copy-by-eyes version of it.

Golden blade of light shot out of the sword, clashing with the Land King's breath mid air.

The blade of light intensely scattered sparks around, bisected the breath vertically, and reached the Land King's forehead.

The light that was dampened by the breath broke through the Land King's barrier but it only managed to make a small wound on its forehead.



"I guess a shell-type skill isn't suited for countering a continuous-emission type skill after all."

I position the sword level to my eyes and cut down the breath into harmless particles.

It wasn't a Sword Skill but the space magic [Isolation Wall (Deracinator)] and [Dimension Slasher].

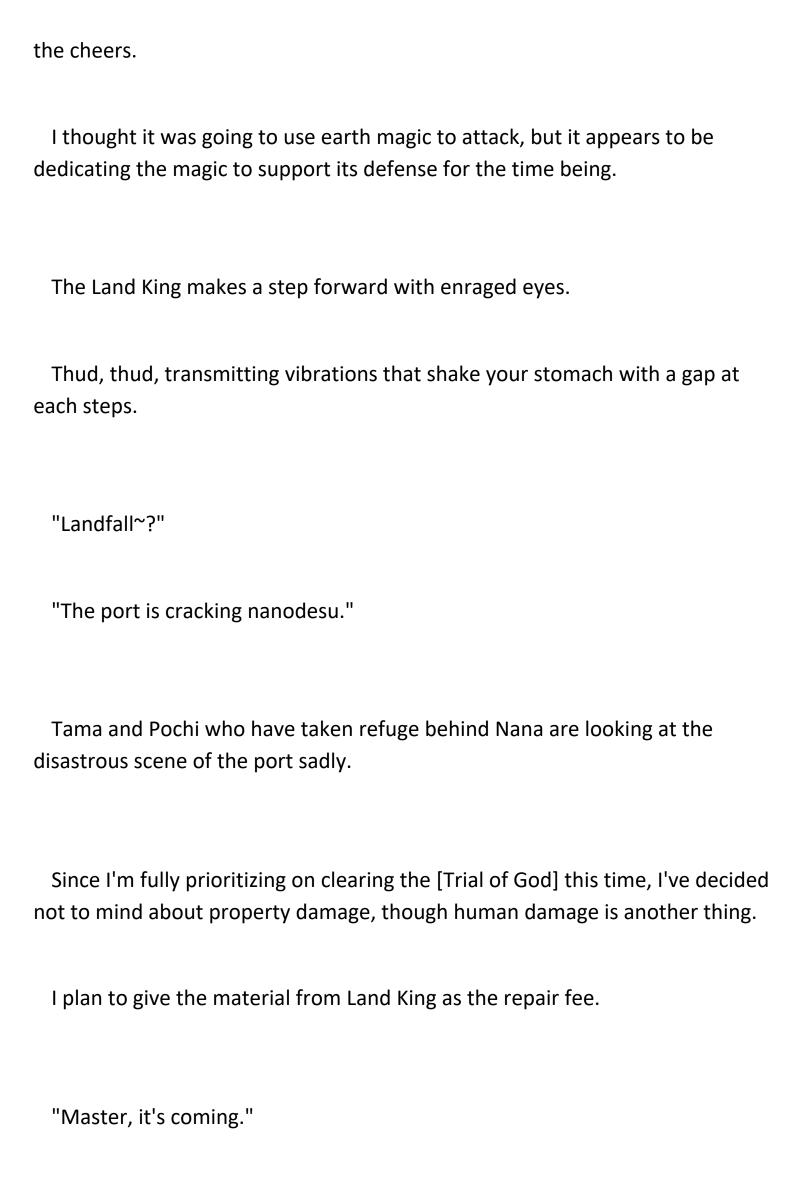
From outside perspective, it should like the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] I had ripped the beam apart.

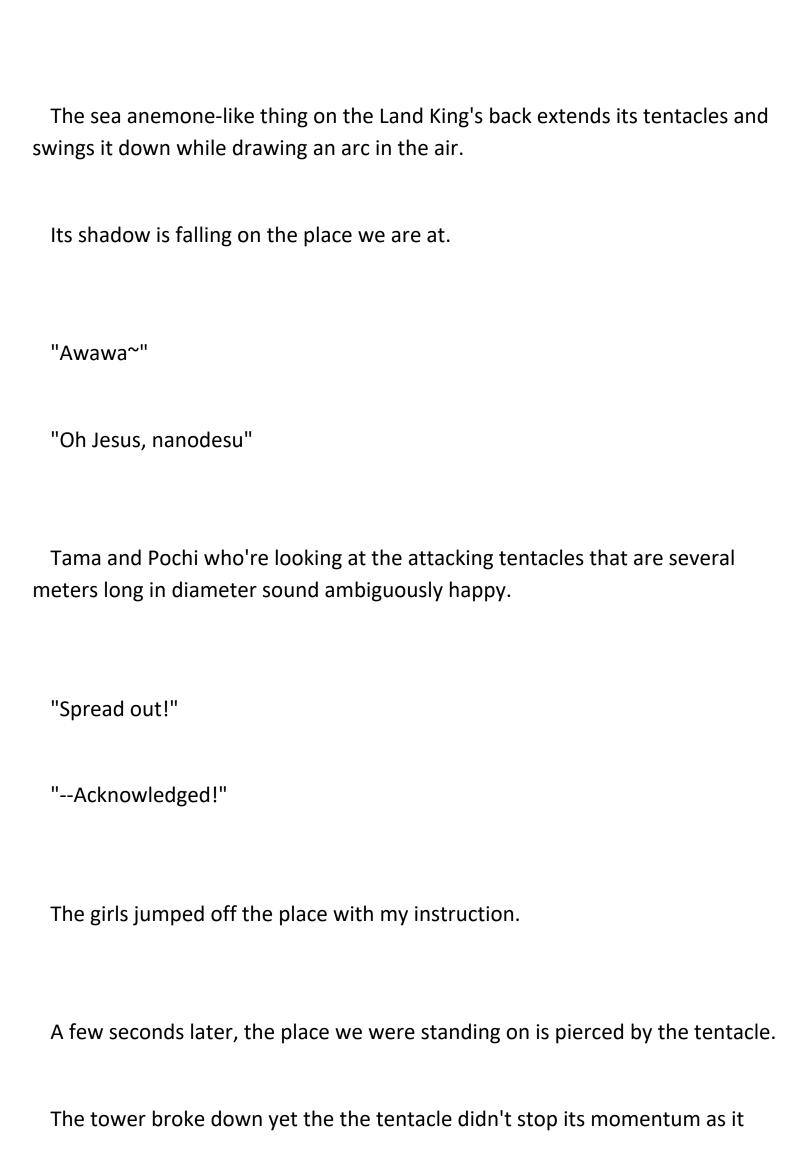
As a proof of that plan's successful result, people at the palace and those who took shelter on the high ground raised shouts of joy.

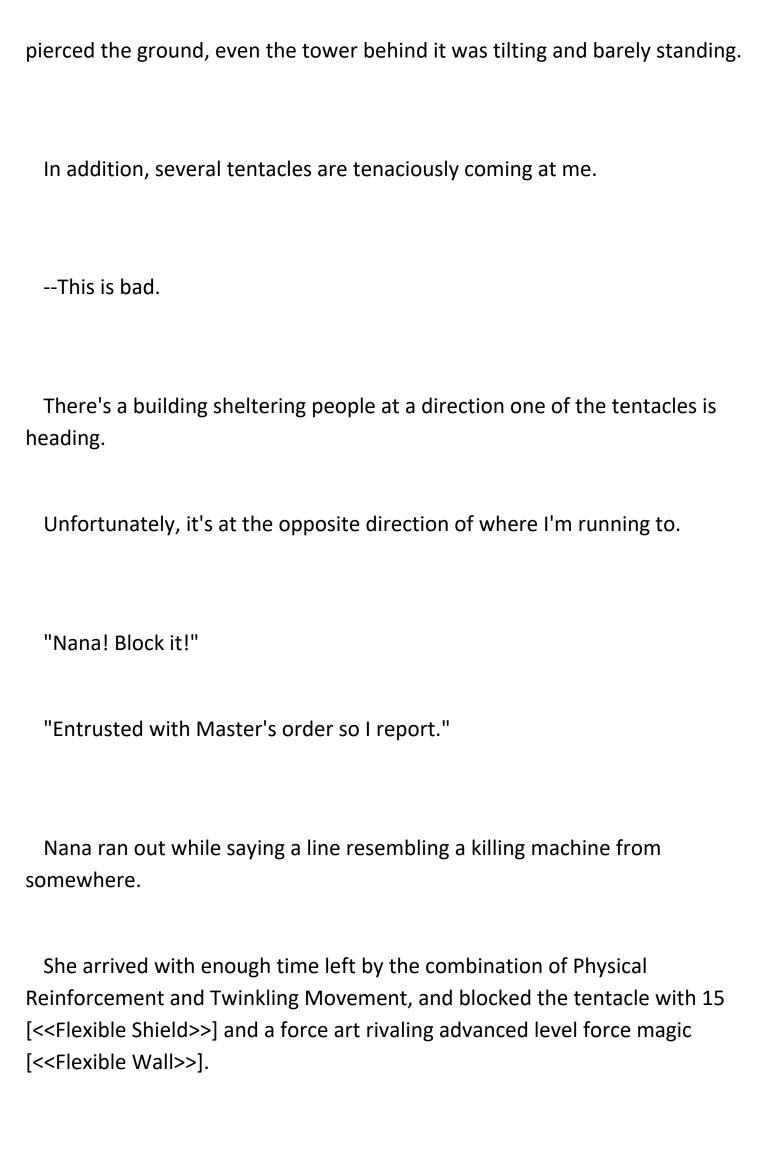
Now that enough people's eyes have gathered on me, let's do a performance to increase their faith on God Heraruon.

"My name is Pendragon! With holy sword [Golden Sword Heraruoph]

bestowed to me by the authority of God Heraruon, I will destroy this ancient monster Land King!"
I made it so that it would reach Sania Kingdom people's ears through amplification magic and wind magic.
While I was at it, I also used light magic to make the Golden Sword shine for stage effects.
"""00000000000000000000000000000000000
"""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!"""
"""PENDRAGON! PENRRAGON! PENGRAGON!"""
Cheers loud enough to shook the earth resounded in the capital.
Getting my name wrong is fine, at least it doesn't look like anyone gets the god's name wrong.
——GWAMWUEEEEEEE.
The Land King roared in anger though I don't think it has anything to do with



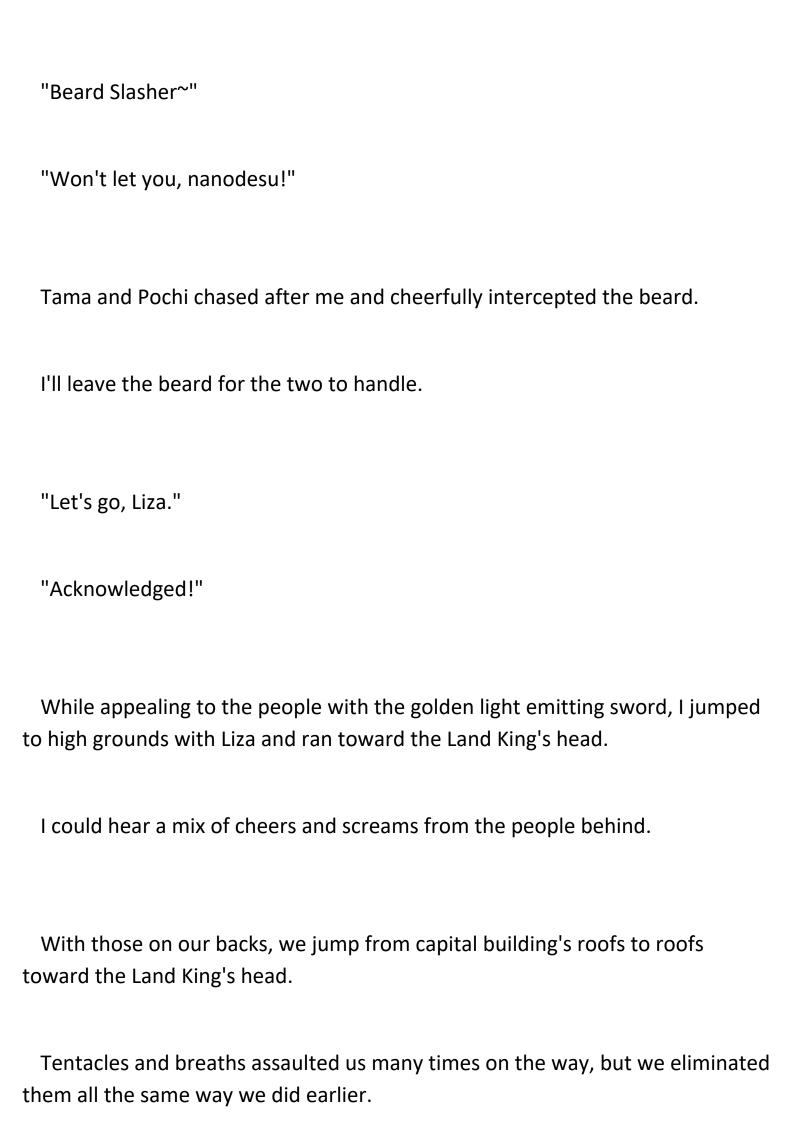


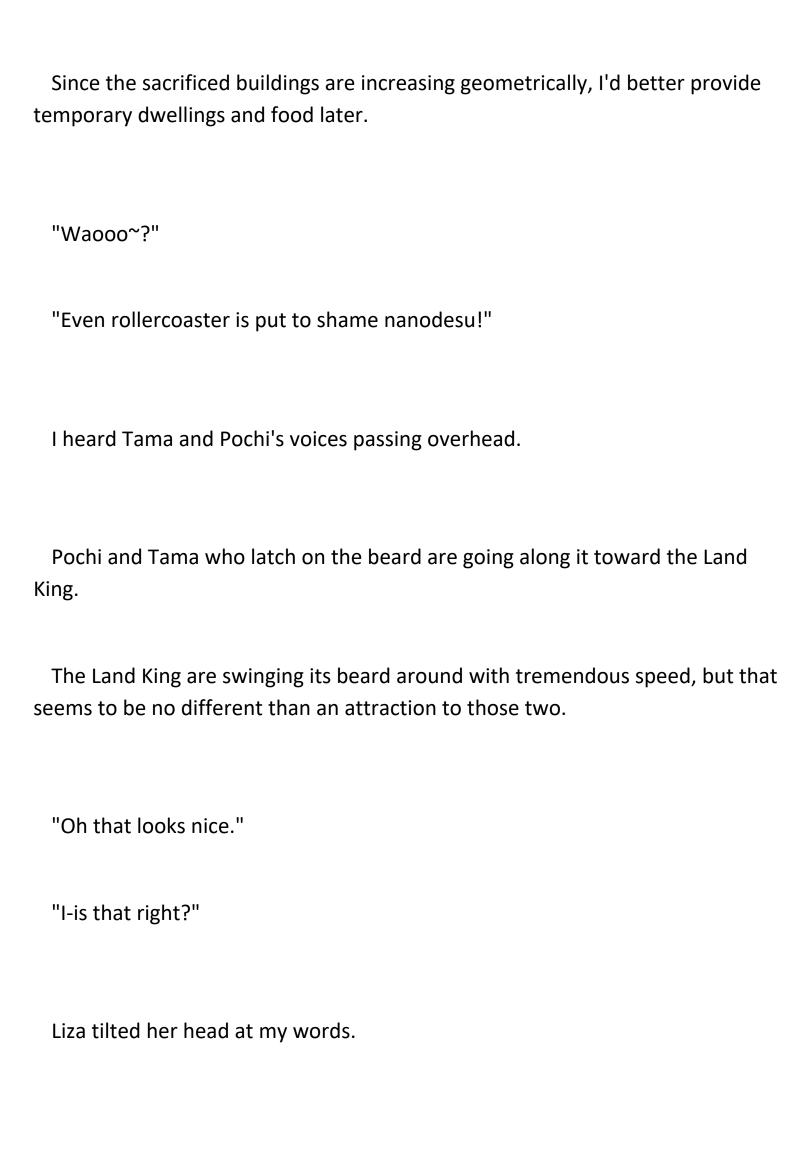


The ground Nana stood on wasn't that sturdy though, it caved in with tremors, tilting the ground and buildings around her.
She could have blocked it more easily if she used the hidden [Fortress] and [Castle] capabilities on her equipment, but I haven't given the permission to use it.
Since the opponent's level is just 88, Nana who's amply supplied with defensive skills and magic should be able to defend against it easily.
"Ooo! Awesome!"
"Who's that beauty."
The people who were saved by Nana praised her in high tension after narrowly escaping death.
"Escape while you have the chance now, so I inform."
"O-ou! Gotcha!"

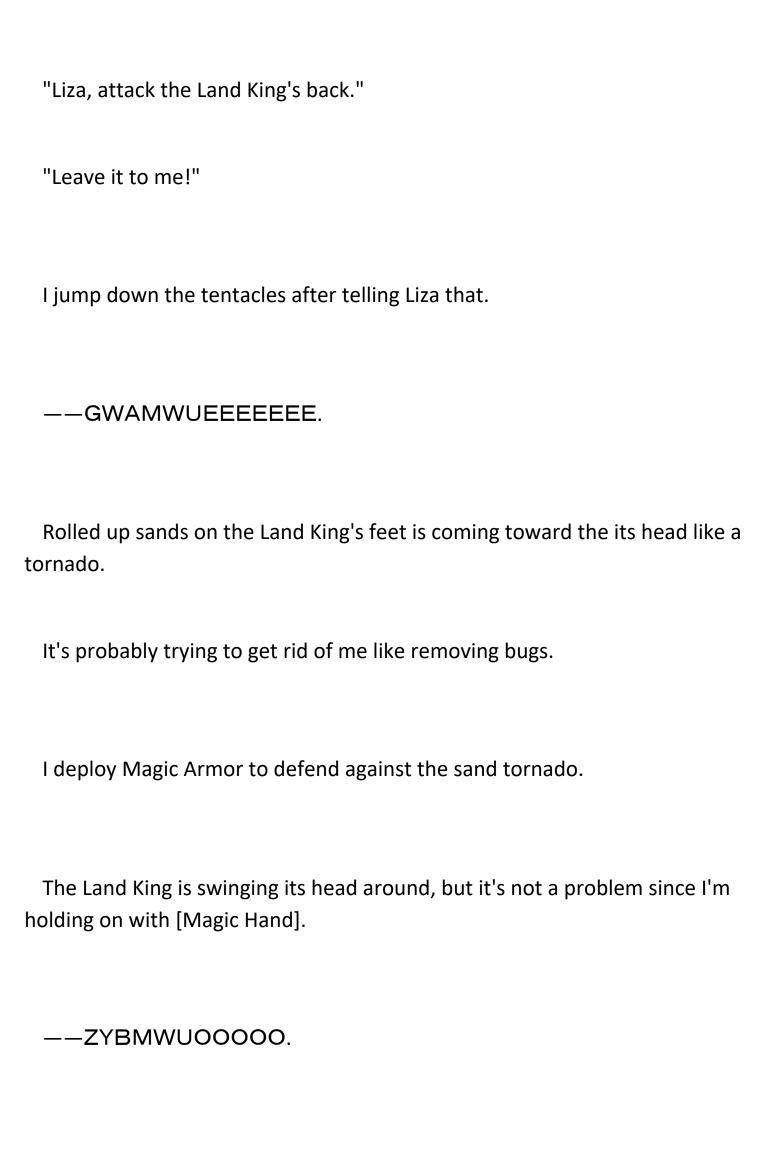


The Land King screamed. Looks like having its tentacles cut is painful even with that huge body. I wave my hands at the people and rapidly shoot out the fake Sun Slashes. The people cheered out loud every time I cut off one of the Land King's tentacles. The cut tentacles fell on the downtown, breaking buildings and raising dense cloud of dust around. The foul smelling blood of the Land King seems to be a strong acid, buildings that have been bathed in the blood are burning and raising white smoke. --GWAMWUEEEEEE. The Land King's roar echoed in the capital's sky. Hidden behind the dust cloud and white smoke, the Land King shots out its beard clad in red light toward me.

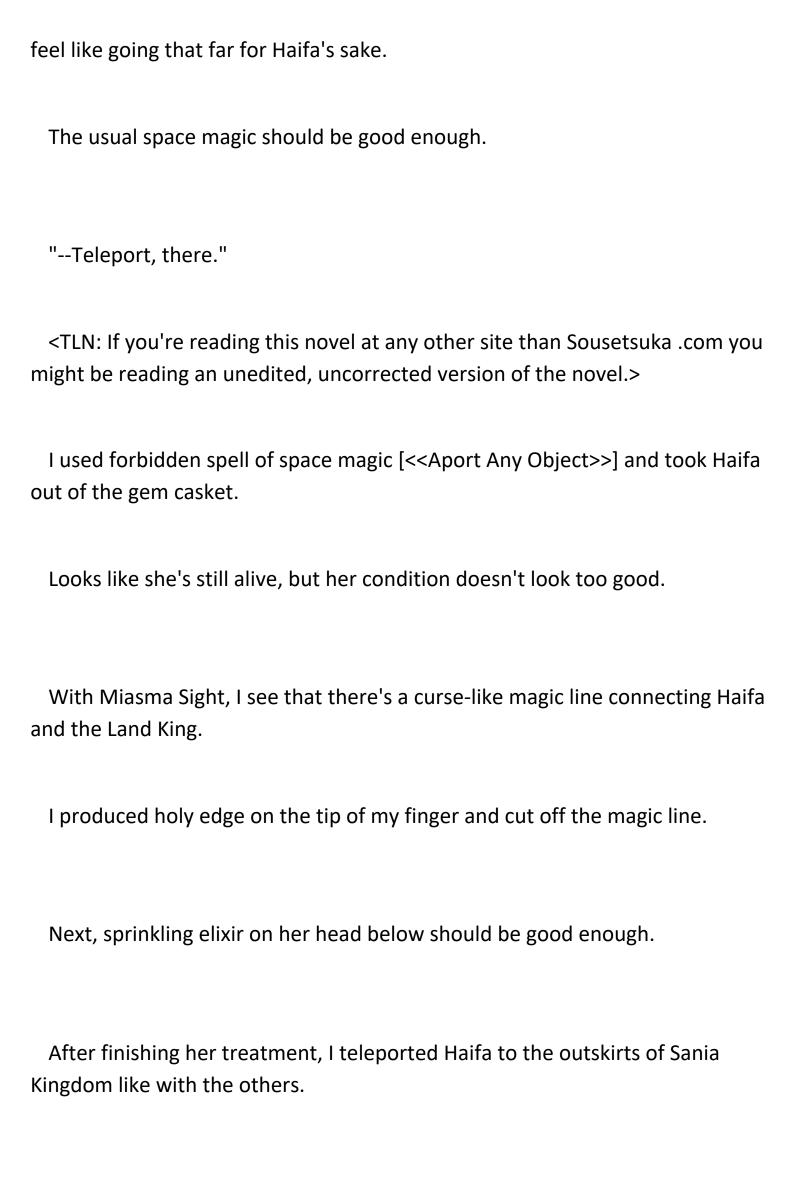


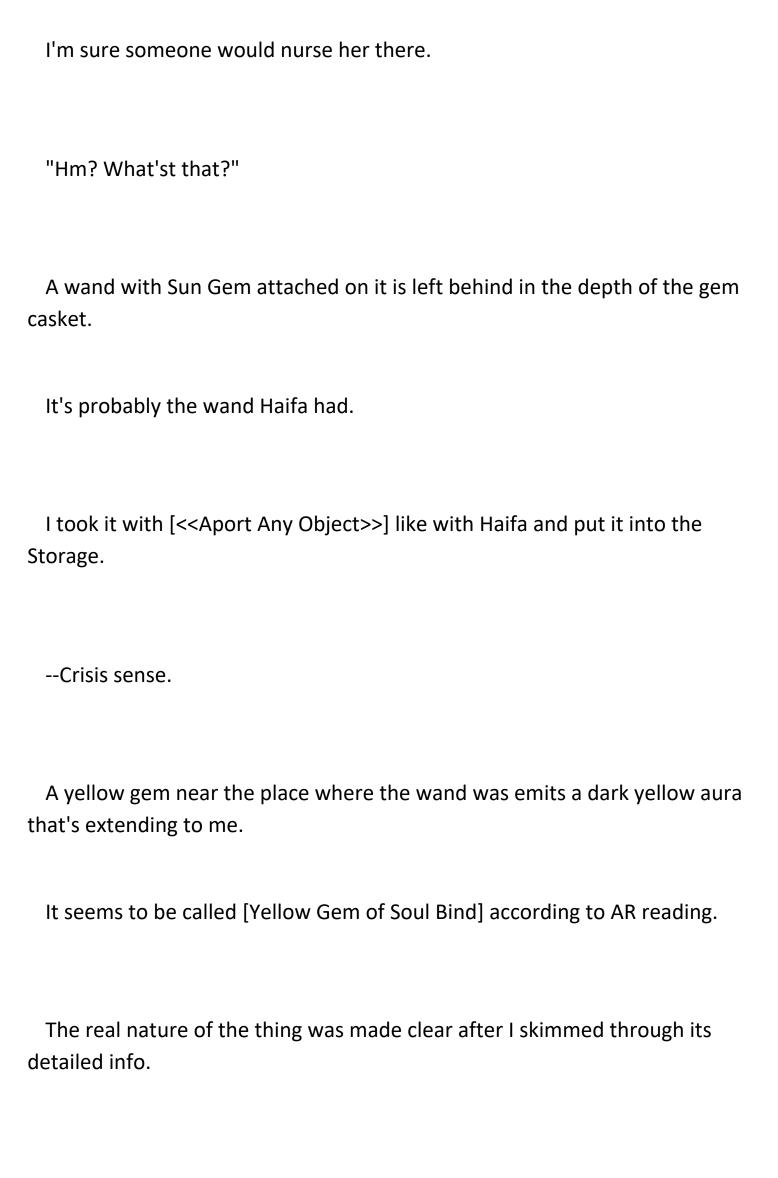


GWAMWUEEEEEEE.
A Land King's tentacles are coming toward us while roaring.
It's coated its tentacle with earth magic in an attempt to counter my blade of light.
"Liza, let's make use of that to go above the Land King."
"Acknowledged!"
We evaded the tentacle that pierced the ground by jumping, kicked the air and landed on top of the tentacle.
The heavy tentacle doesn't seem to be as agile as the beard.
I ran past the tentacle along with Liza while it was still stuck on the ground. What a thrill.
Other tentacles and beards were coming for us, but the Land King seemed to have miscalculated our speed, we didn't even have to evade them as we ran past them.

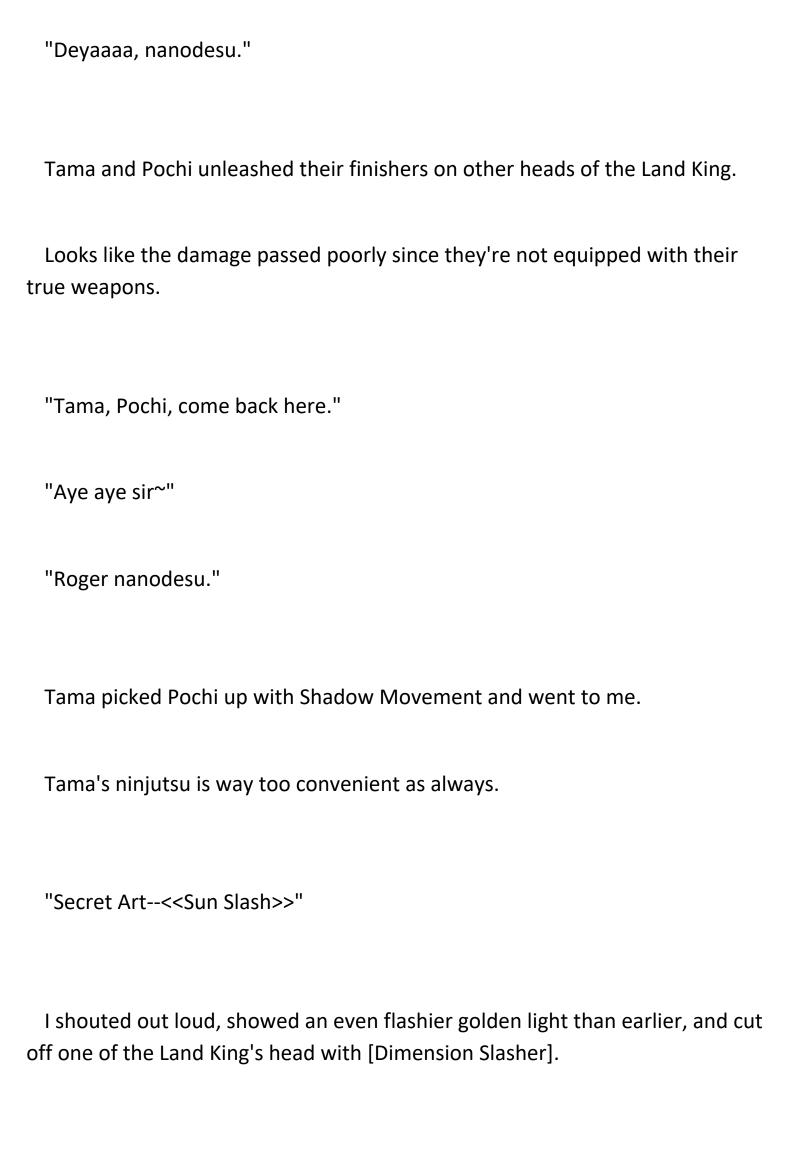


The Land King screamed.
Liza is probably rampaging around on the Land King's back with Magic Edge Cannon and other finishers.
It seems to be in agony, the three heads have begun to randomly shoot out breath.
The breaths tear through the sand sea, annihilating mountains and islets on the sand sea.
I'm casually blocking them off, but there's no doubt that Sania Kingdom's capital would be in danger if it was hit by those breaths.
I arrived at the Land King's head and went to the forehead where the gem casket was located.
"Haifa."
I tried calling Haifa who was embedded in the Land King's head, but of course there's no response.
I could have used Primeval Magic if I wanted to be doubly sure, but I don't

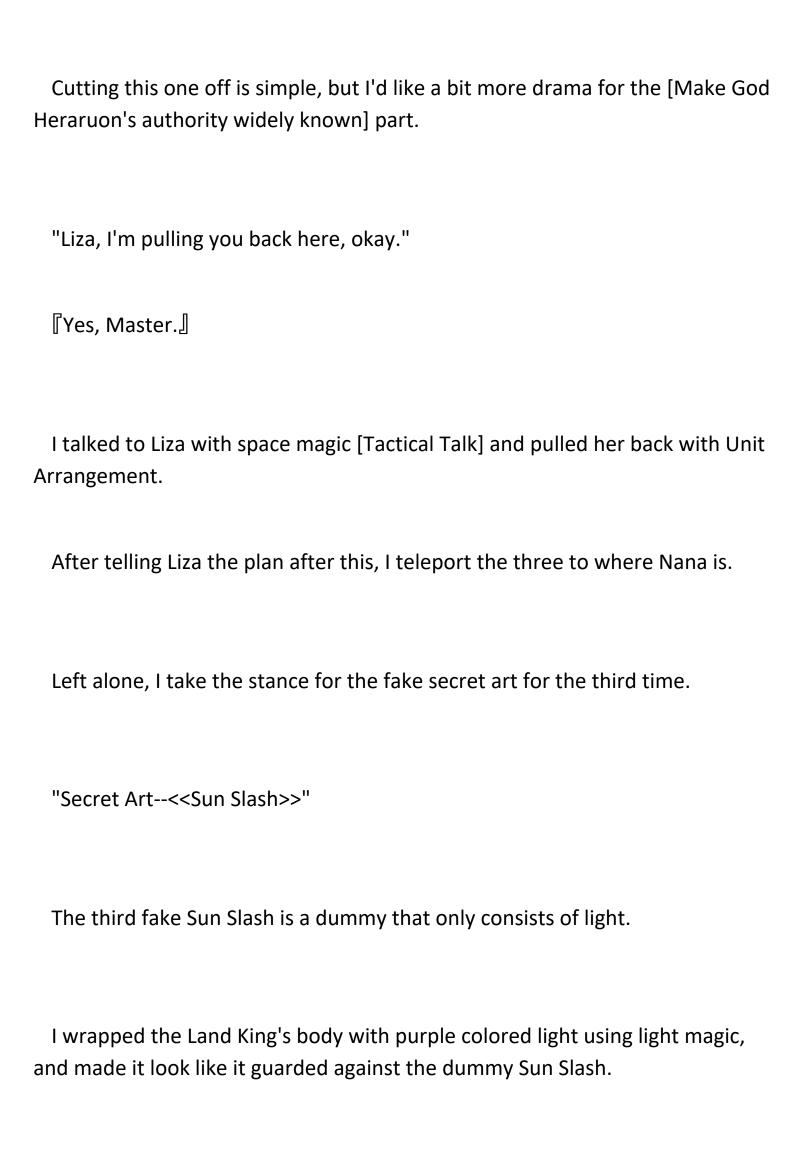


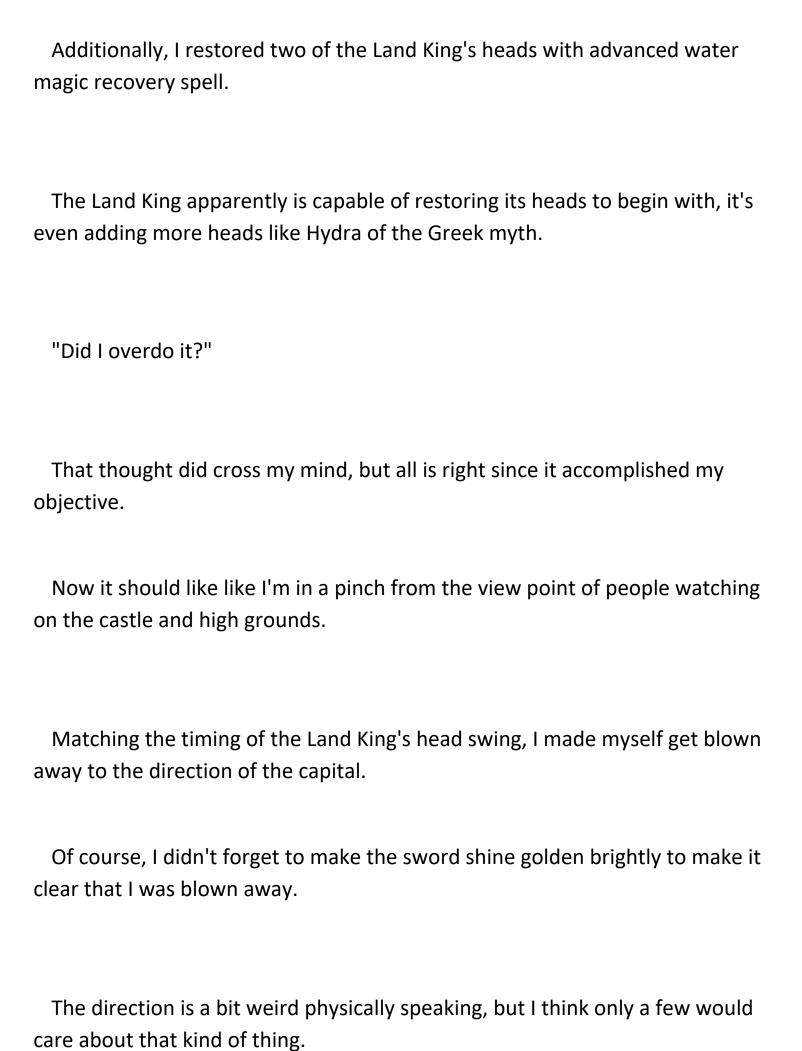


Apparently, Haifa attempted to rule over the Land King by using this. It somewhat seems similar with the spell art that was put on Lalakie Princess I saved from the Sea King at the sugar route during the Divine Punishment. <TLN: Detailed events of this are on the light novel version.> Since the spell art that was used to control the Sea King originated from the yellow skinned demon, this item was highly likely brought here by the same demon, or its followers. "Gotta purge dangerous stuff away, purged you go." I purged the [Yellow Gem of Soul Bind] with [Space Disintegrate]. ——ZYBMWUOOOOO. The Land King screamed out loudly from feet to head. The purged parts seemed to cover a wide area. "Choiya~"









I crashed to a building like a cannonball, destroying several buildings.

Since I clad myself with Magic Armor, let alone injury there's not even a speck of dirt on my clothes, however I put dirt and clotted blood-like paints on my clothes for the sake of the performance.

[Master, are you hurt anywhere?]

"Yeah, I'm fine."

Liza asked anxiously through the still connected [Tactical Talk].

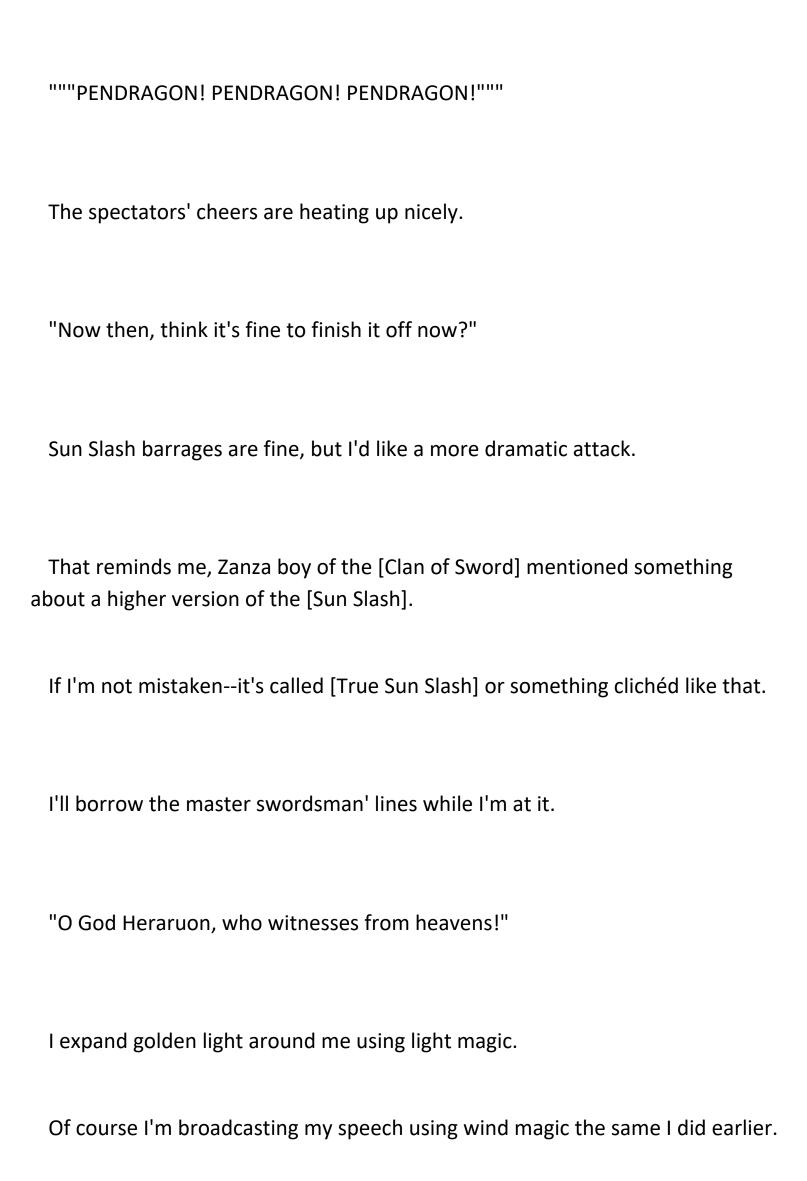
I'm more worried I'd make a mistake holding back and instantly kill the Land King.

"Oops, not letting my guard down--"

I blow away the falling debris and cloud of dust with one swing of my sword.

When I jumped from the collapsed building to the roof of a nearby building, cheers erupted from the spectators.

"""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!"""



"O [Golden Sword Heraruoph]! Eradicate the wicked apostle of demon lord with your radiance!"
I raise the sword toward heavens, at the same time, the golden light that wraps around me extends to the sky.
Furthermore, I change the shape of the simple light pillar that extends to the sky into the golden sword shape.
"""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!"""
"""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!"""
Looks like the performance went well.
For some reason, the Land King began to step back when it saw the illusion sword.
It might even go away with just a bluff at this rate.
"Secret Art< <true slash="" sun="">>"</true>

I estimate the right time and swing down the sword while saying some embarrassing line.

Right when the illusion sword hit the Land King, I used the advanced level space magic [<<Divine Dimensional Blade>>] and cut the Land King's in two vertically.

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The split Land King is sinking into the sand sea with people's cheers as the BGM.

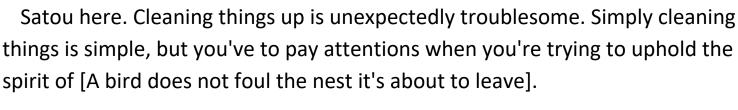
"--Did that do it?"

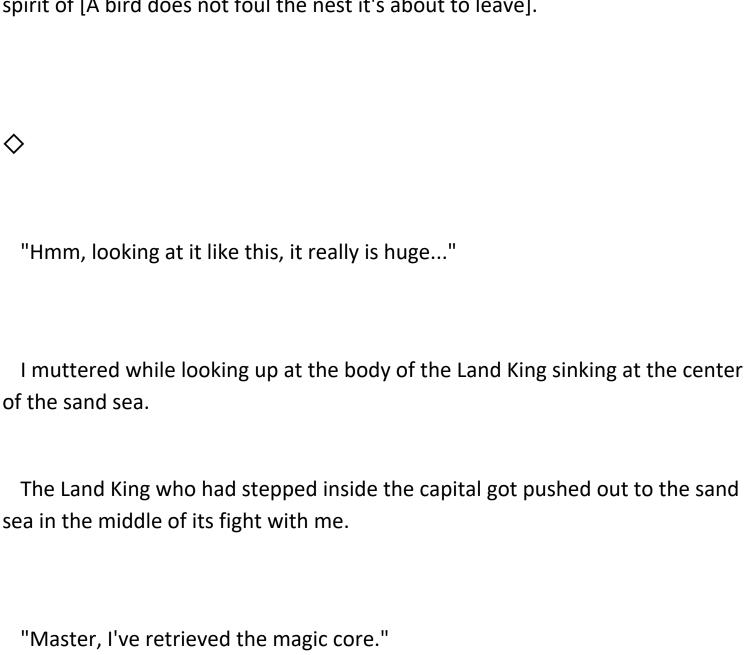
I tried raising a clichéd flag, but it doesn't seem like it's rising up again.

This would have been the time for it to transform into the second stage if it were a demon lord, but it doesn't seem like the Land King, a mere familiar of a demon lord, has such regenerative capability, its corpse has been turned into an object on the sand.

"""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!"""
"""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!"""
I keep the light on the golden sword to respond the rooting.
Well then, wonder if this accomplished God Heraruon's order?

16-24. Sania Kingdom (4)

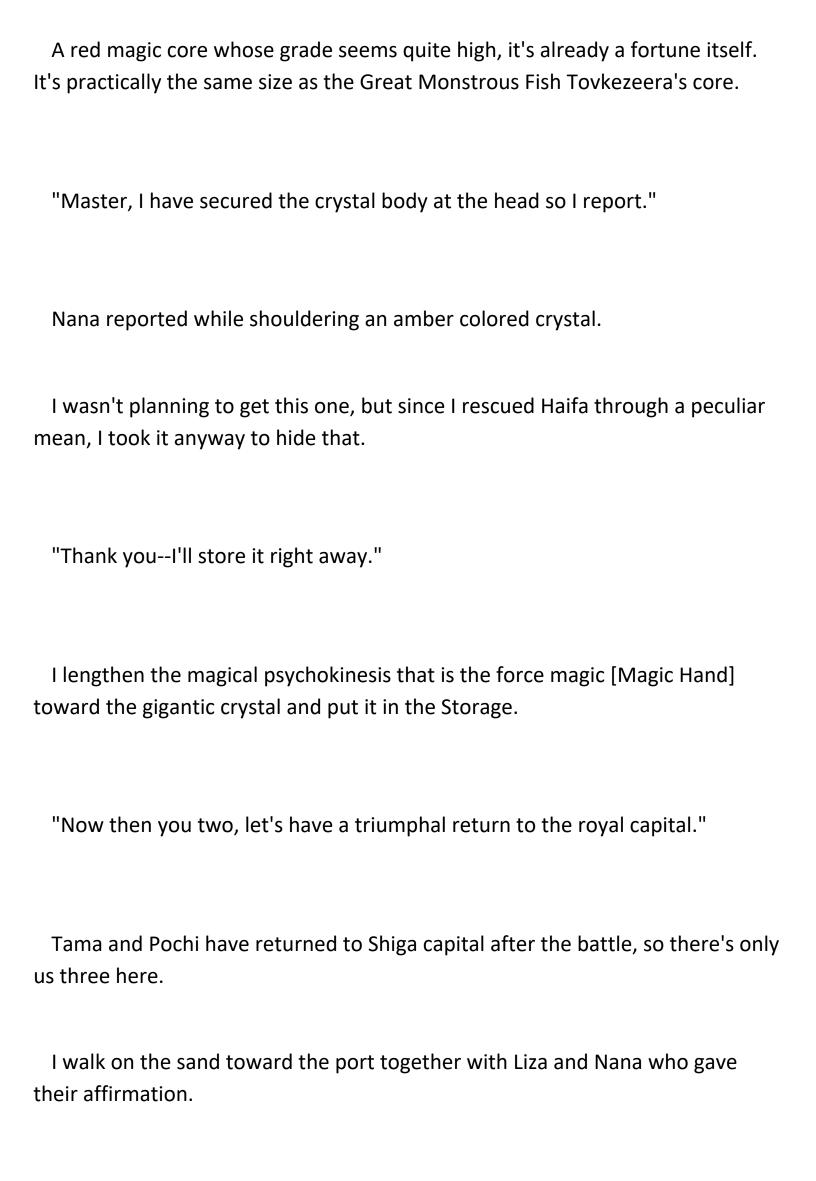


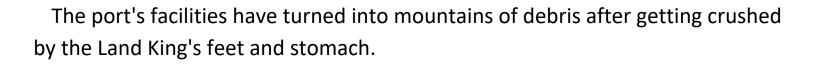


sea in the middle of its fight with me.

"Thanks."

Liza comes back with a magic core that's taller than her on her shoulder.





Reconstructions will probably take a considerable amount of time and money.

"""THE HERO HAS RETURNED!"""

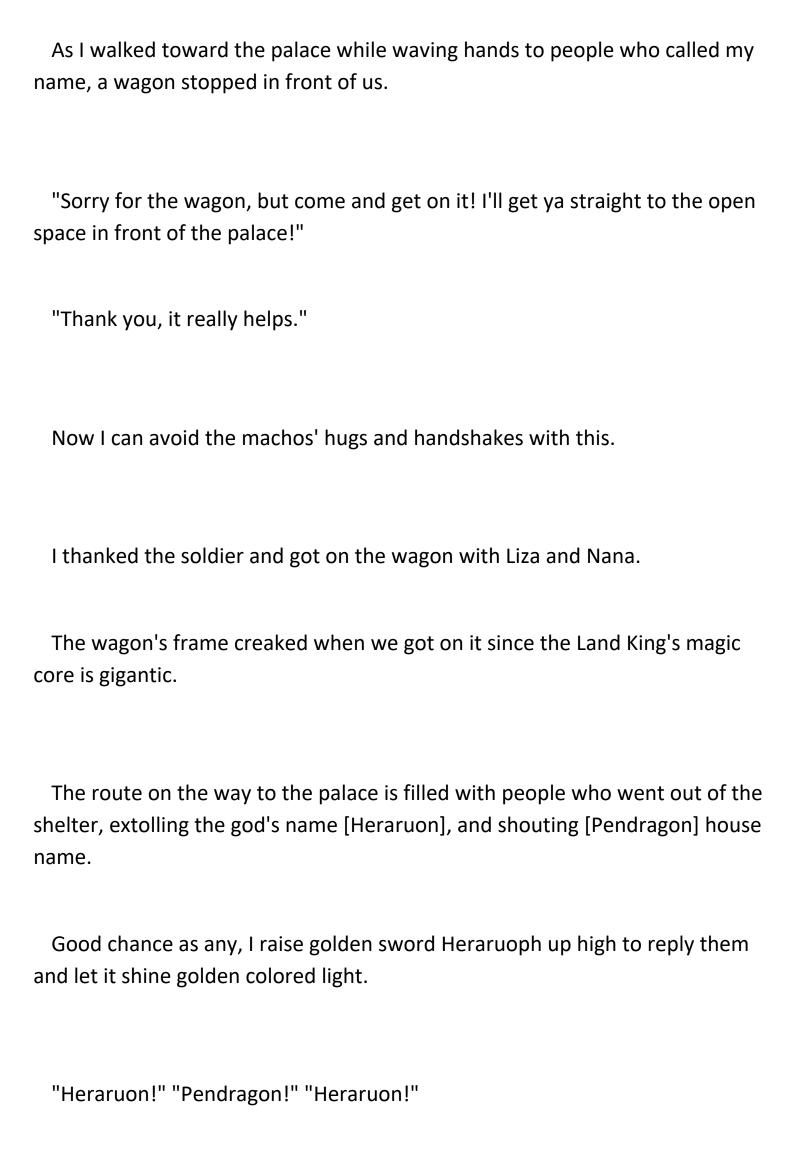
We could hear a huge cheers from the soldiers at the port.

"""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!"""

Looks like someone have spread my name, people who call my name wrong have decreased sharply.

That's fine and all, but it didn't end with just them calling my name as they began to stand before us, asked for my handshakes, hugged me and said their blessing.

I don't mind getting hugged by young beauties, but please just spare me from the rowdy men.



Since the golden sword looks quite showy, the reaction is remarkable.

With this much praises from people, I'm very sure that the [Trial of God] is cleared.

However, not everyone was speaking good things.

There were some who reproached [Clan of Sword], or said something like, [It's good enough as long as the true owner of Heraruoph, Pendragon is here] or 「We don't need 『Clan of Sword』 and 『Clan of Wand』 anymore].

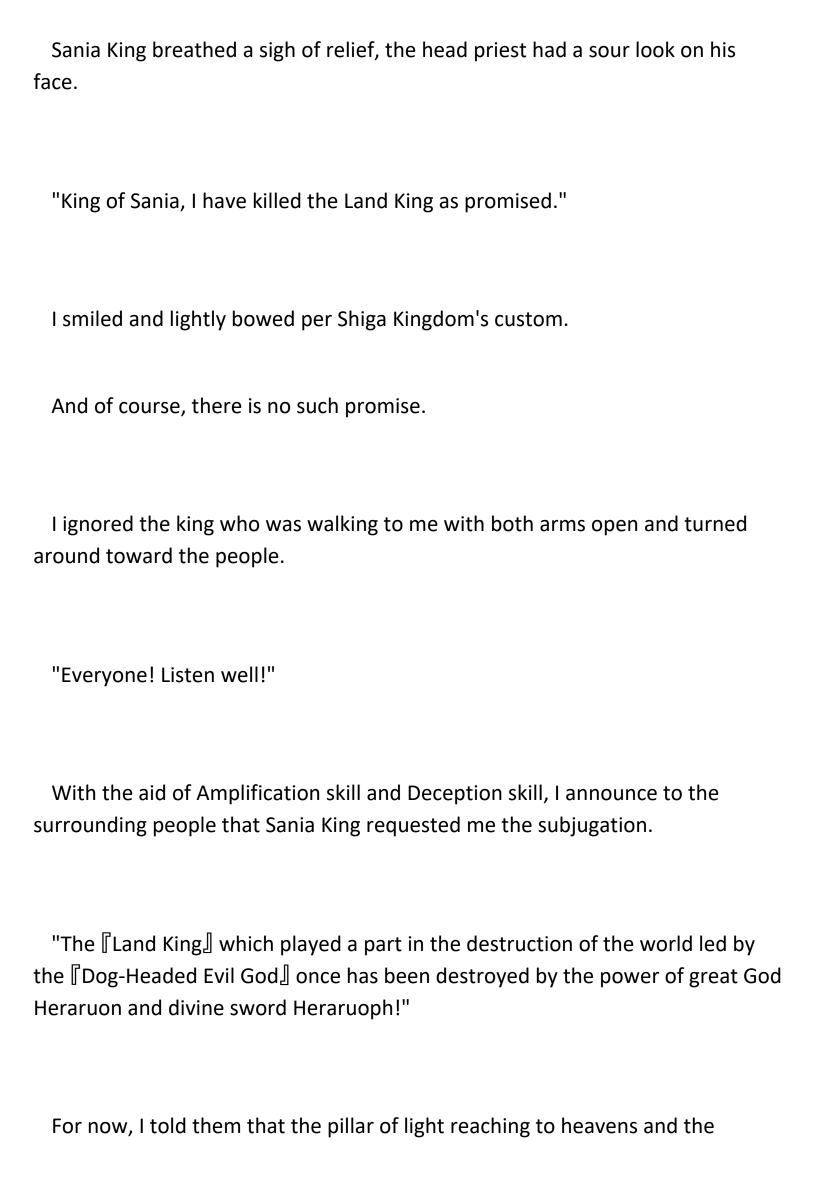
There were also men who seemed to belong to the [Clanf of Sword] mixed among the soldiers, looking at me with bewildered and loathsome expressions on their faces.

I never planned to sow seeds of discords in this country, so let's deny it when I found a good timing.

I continued the golden light performance until we arrived at the open space before the palace.



"Sir Pendragon! You did well to subjugate the Land King!" When we reached the palace, Sania King who brought the prime minister with him greeted me at the gate. But they're not the only ones here. "Apostle Pendragon! Good job accomplishing the [Trial of God]!" Head Priest of Heraruon Temple wearing a gaudy robe also greeted me in front of Heraruon Temple that faces the open space. I don't mind you taking high ranking priests and miko(s) with you but please stop with the [Apostle] thing. Now then, this situation is like when you're presented with the option [Which is it!] in a GP match. Walking to the head priest here would be the correct answer for my objective, but I turned toward Sania King first.



gigantic golden sword shaped from it were all god Heraruon's power.

The people who have gathered here seem to believe that, they're unanimously chanting god Heraruon's name.

Alright, the [Trial of God] should be good with this.

Next--.

"However! Not everything was accomplished through the power of God and divine sword!"

After I said that, people begin to repeatedly call my name after God Heraruon, that's not it.

"Before I fought the Land King, the [Clan of Sword] and the soldiers stood on the front line to drive back the Land King's familiars, the << Desert Scorpions>>, then the [Clan of Wand] and other magicians came rushing in to rout them."

For the time being, I'll praise the [Clan of Sword] and the [Clan of Wand].

Sania King had a grim look on his face, the expressions of people of [Clan of Sword] and [Clan of Wand] softened.

Additionally, the Sand Demon Scorpions being the Land King's familiars is just a setting I made up on the spot, I don't know if it's true or not.
"Furthermore! The one that protected the powerless capital from the Land King's attack was the King of Sania's [Protection of King]!"
In fact, the shock wave from the breath attack I blocked would have destroyed quite a lot of the capital's buildings if it wasn't for the protective wall Sania King erected using the [City Core].
"By the words of God Heraruon!"
I shouts out while lighting the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] golden like its name.
Ah.
I forgot to praise the priests who helped healing people evacuated from the front line.
But it'd be awkward to retrace my speech here, I'll give donations to other temples besides Heraruon Temple too later, forgive me with that.

"[Clan of Sword] and [Clan of Wand], take each other's hands, and together be the shield that protects Sania Kingdom and the glaive that destroys invaders, shoulder Sania Kingdom, devotes yourselves to Sania Kingdom! Without forgetting your gratitudes for God Heraruon who watches over the kingdom, live well!"

I don't think this will make everything goes well in this country, but it'd be nice if it helps people facing toward a peaceful future even a bit.

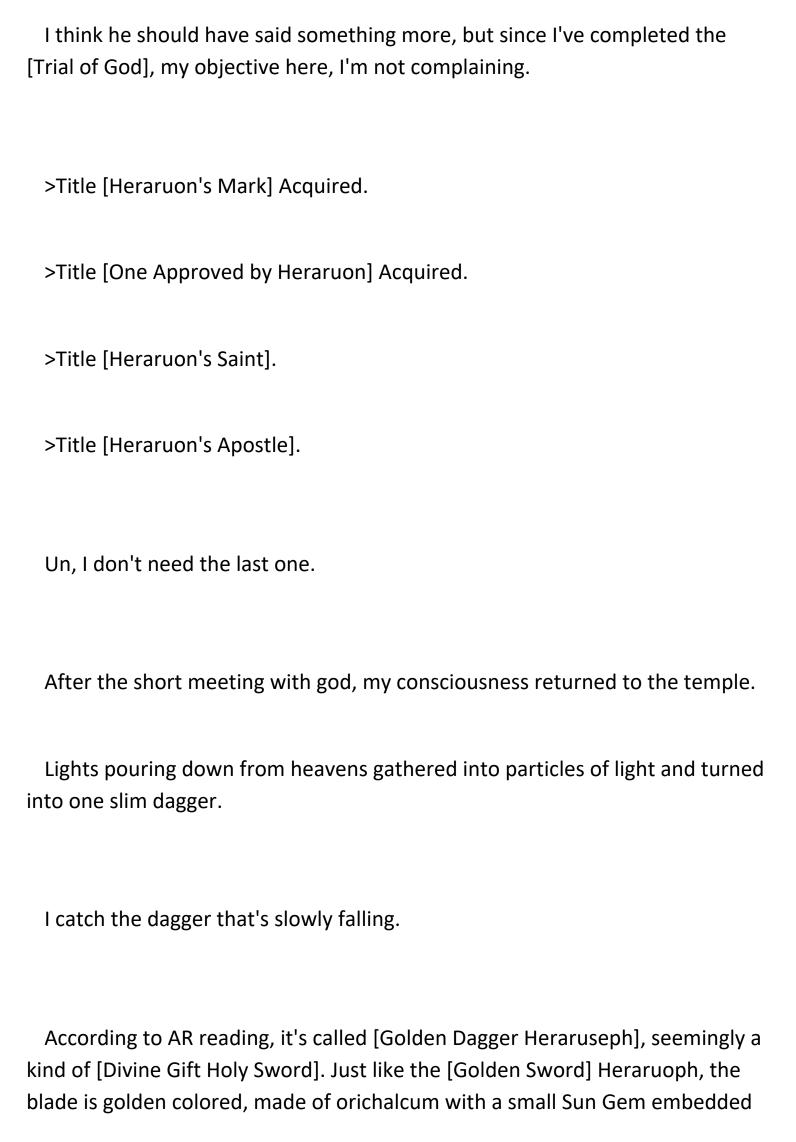
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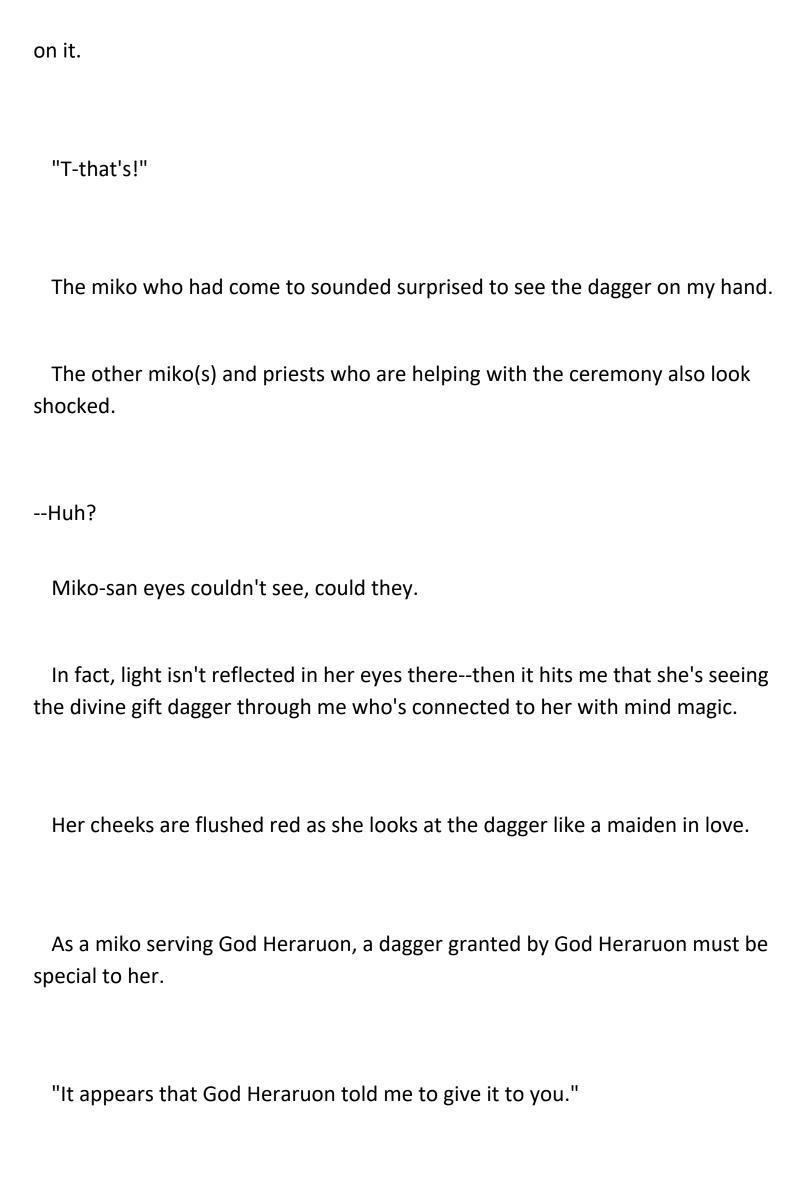
<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

After the performance at the open space, I returned the [Golden Sword] Heraruoph to Sania King and visited Heraruon Temple.

Just like the time I received the trial, I reported to God Heraruon through the [Oracle Miko].

God Heraruon's words were really simple.





I present the dagger to the mike as I say that. I've decided to give this dagger to Heraruon Temple as thanks for helping with the trial. I hesitated a bit to give something I got from someone else, but God Heraruon himself didn't say that it was specifically for me, thus there's a chance that it's for the miko I'm with. That probability is low though. I do hold a slight interest to research the small Sun Gem, but that's it, I'm no really interested in the thing besides for that. "--U-um?" I smile back at the perplexed miko. "I'm only able to clear the trial because of your help and Heraruon Temple's cooperation. It is only right for you and the temple to keep this sacred treasure."

I'm good with just the mark anyway.

"Now, please take it."

The mike timidly reached for the dagger and reverently received it.

After admiring the look of a miko in love hugging the dagger, I leave the temple.

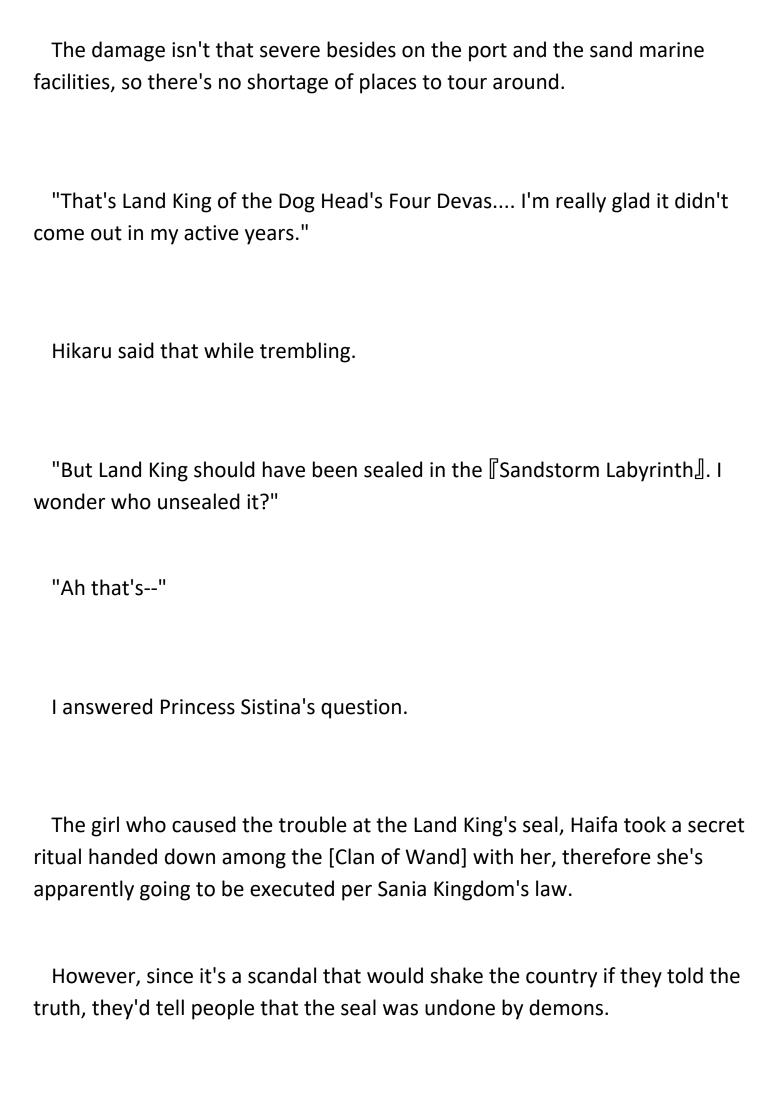


"Hee~, so that's the Land King's body~"

"Huge."

Arisa and Mia who are standing on a high ground at Sania Kingdom voiced their impressions while looking at the sunk Land King's body at the sand sea.

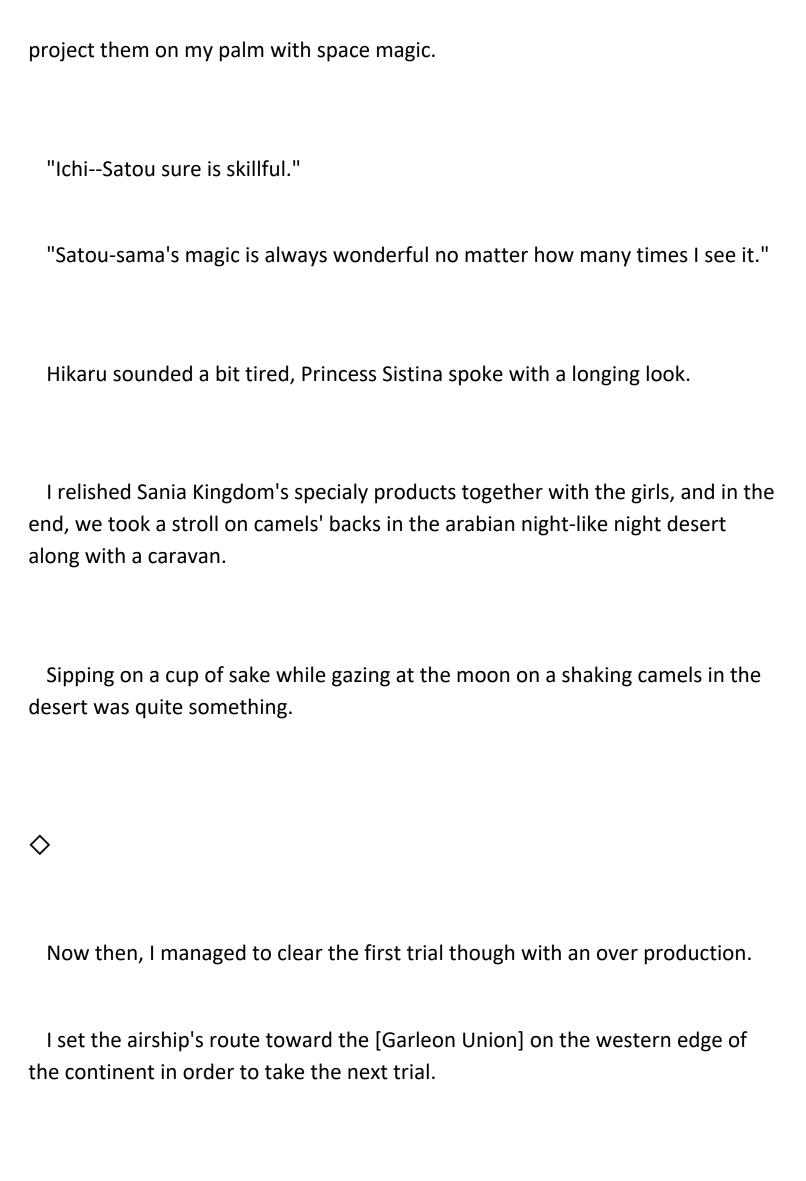
After finishing the work at Sania Kingdom--Greeting the king and transferring the right of Land King's body to Sania Kingdom, managing the dispute with the master swordsman, Zanza boy and Myufa siblings, holding a meeting with the head of [Clan of Wand], the father of the problematic girl Haifa, donating a large amount of money to other temples besides Heraruon Temple, and fulfilling requests to distribute food at the slums--I go on a tour with the girls.



Well, if I wasn't happen to be here by chance, not only Sania Kingdom, the

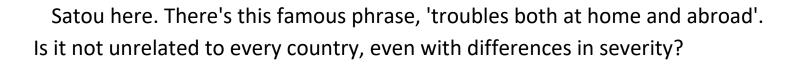


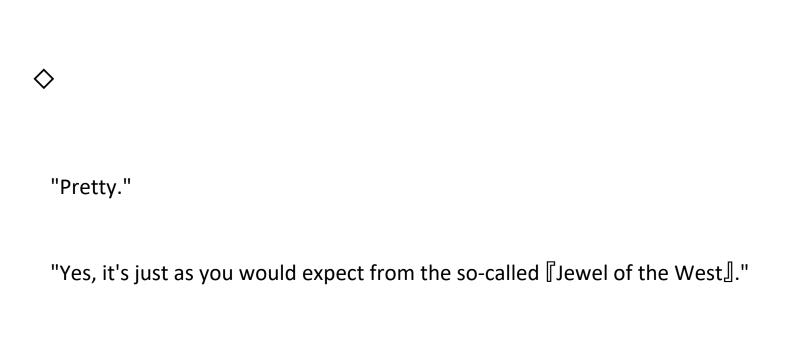




Wonder what kind of trial would God Garleon give me.	
I lean my back against the airship's seat while feeling slightly anxious.	

16-25. Garleon Union (1)





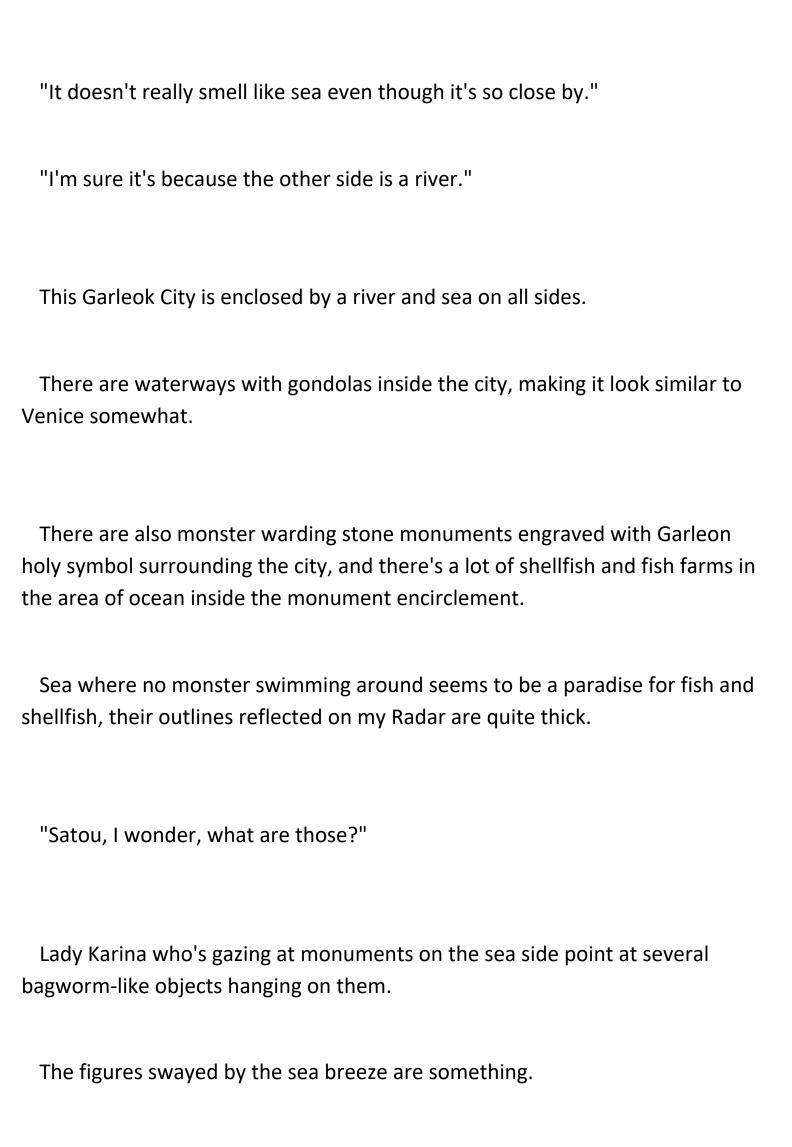
Mia and Princess Sistina who are accompanying me gave their praises as they gazed upon Garleok City scenery.

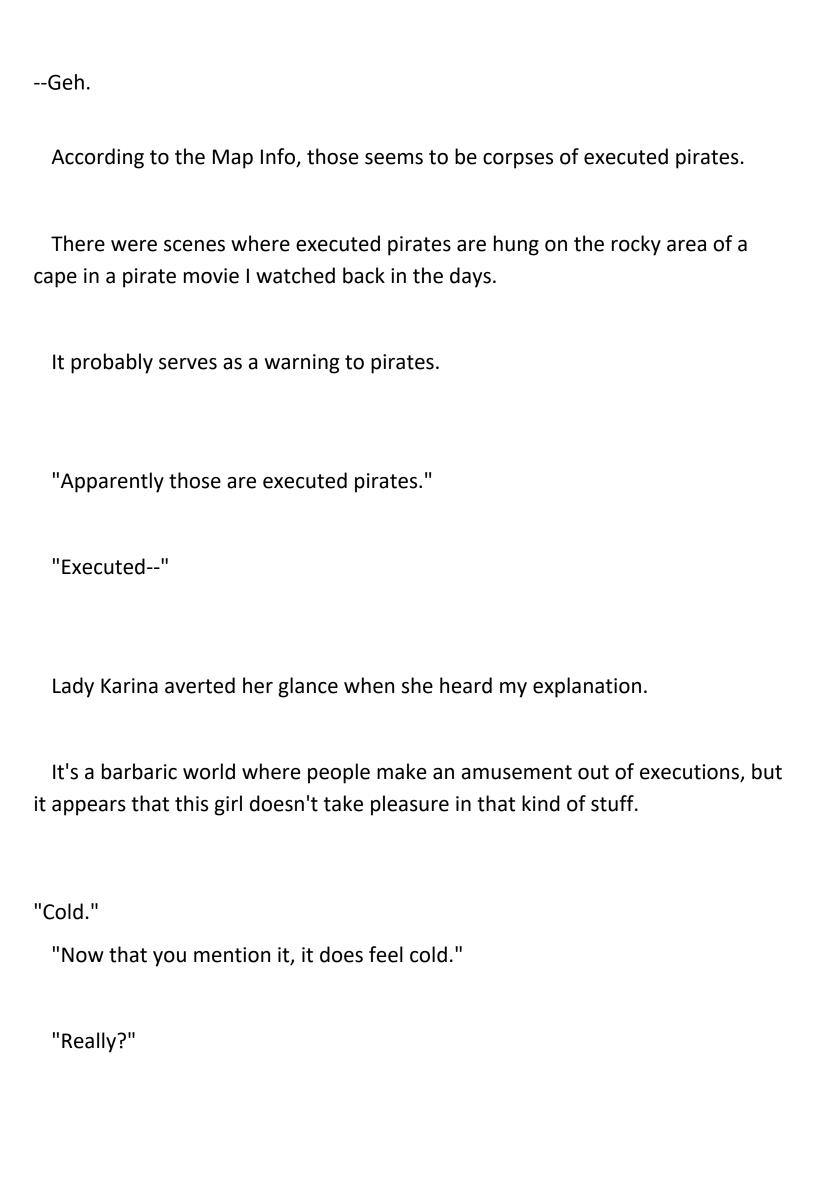
We have come to Garleok City where the Central Garleon Temple is located.

Right now, we're in a park that extends to the sea.

Lady Karina is also with us, but she's currently enraptured by the soy-sauce like smell drifting from the city.

Guess it's inevitable since she's a [Function over Form] type.

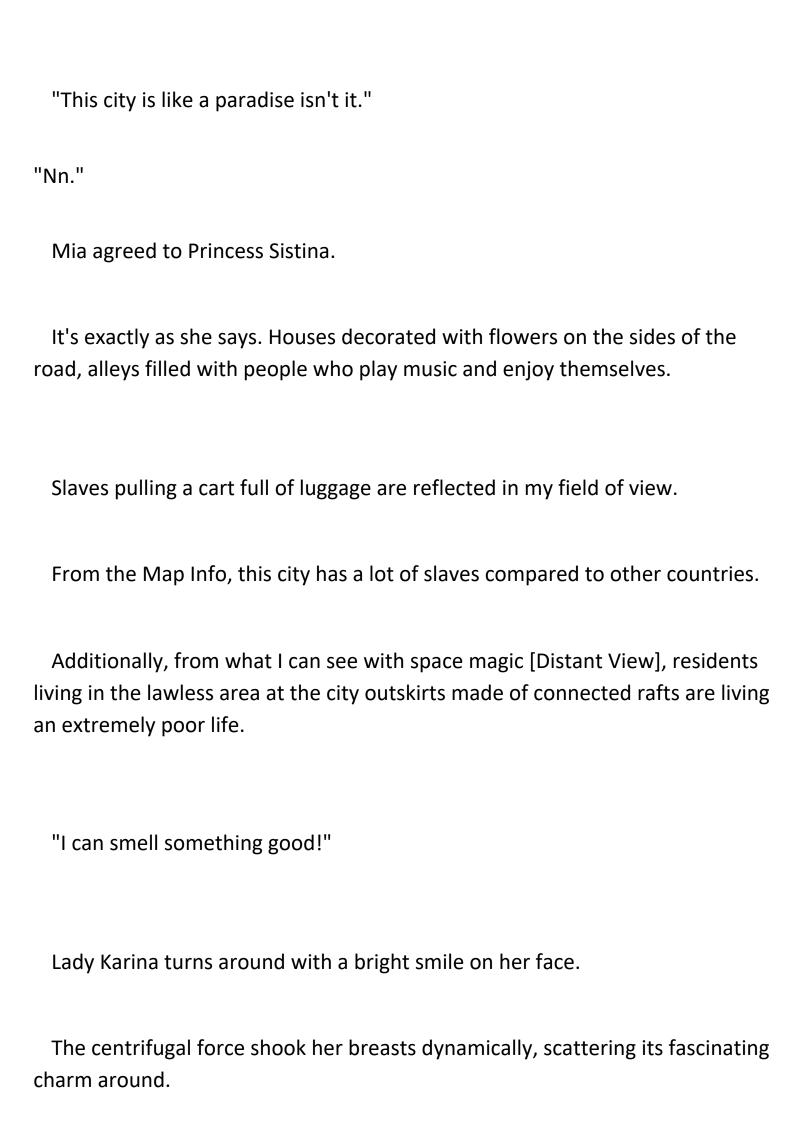


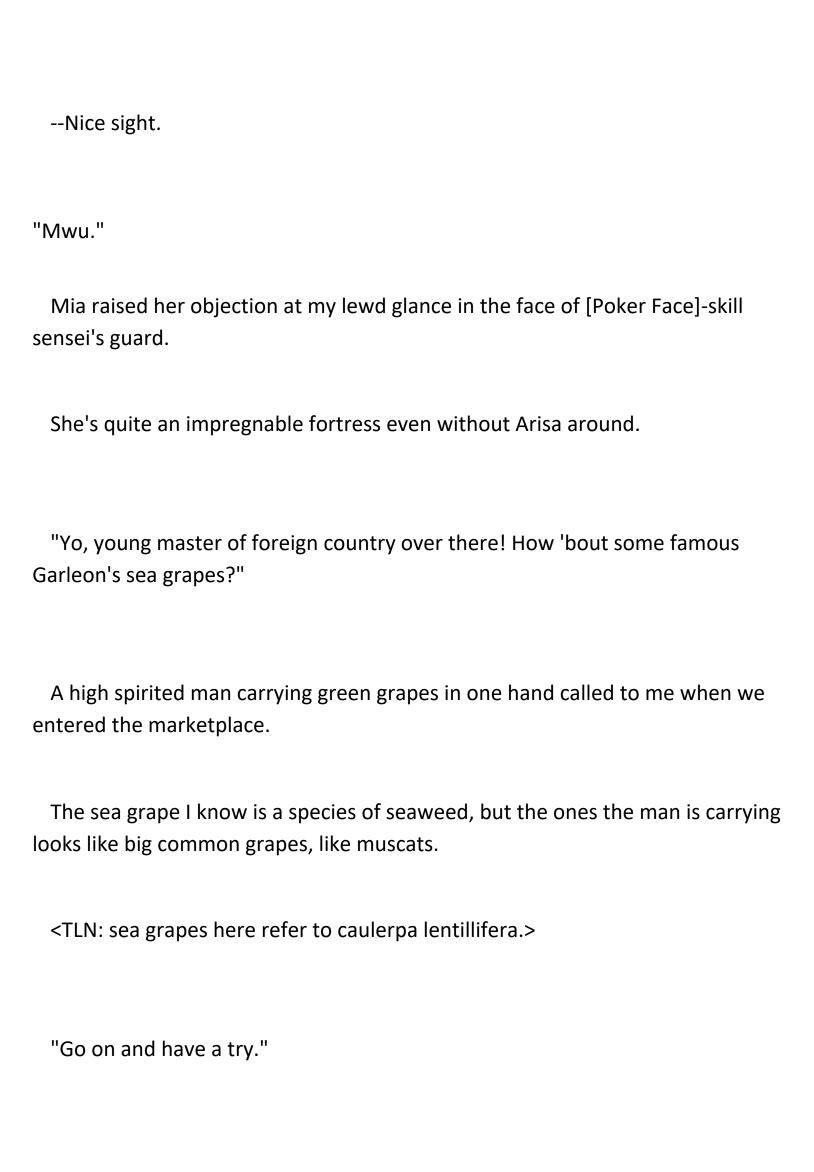


The temperature itself is mild, but apparently the wind a bit chilling for the lightly dressed Mia and Princess Sisti	
It seems to be nothing for Lady Karina who grew up in though.	the poor Muno Castle
I lightly use [Air Conditioner] magic to slightly warm up	the air.
"Let's take a walk at the next marketplace and get som	ething warm to drink."
I said that to them and walked toward the port where	the market was.
The huge Garleon Temple can be seen in the middle of	the city far away.
Unlike the luxurious Heraruon Temple at Sania Kingdor sturdy atmosphere to it.	m, this one has this
"Is this you first time coming to Garleon Union, Satou?	11
"Yes, I've passed by it in the sky many times before, bu the city."	t this is the first I visit

I affirmed Princess Sistina's question. If I'm not mistaken, the last time I came here was when the neighboring Holy State Parion waged a war with this country. "There's no king in this country, isn't there? Then who is ruling it?" "It's by representatives of each cities." Garleon Union is an alliance of nine cities, and this Garleok City that we are at acts as the leader. Three of the cities including Garleok are managed by a confederation of merchants, while the other six form a kingdom. Thus, saying that there's no king is not exactly right. Every city is prospering through marine product trades, many of the people are wealthy. "Flowers." "There's really a lot of extravagant houses around."







I put one in my mouth as recommended. It tastes like muscat just like its look. The fruit is seedless, unusual in this parallel world, its fruit juice is rich on top of having thin skin, it seems to be a type that can be eaten whole with its skin like shine muscats. <TLN: vitis vinifera.> It's slightly sour unlike the real shine muscats, but still less sour than other grapes, it's easy to eat. "Give me ten bunches of it. How much?" "Whoa there, you sure are manly leading those beauties with you. A bunch is one silver coin, but you can have ten for nine silver coins." --Pricey. <TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.> It's unusually expensive compared to other fruits sold in the market. However, according to the Market skill, a bunch cost from two big copper coins to one silver coin, so it doesn't seem to be that much of a rip-off.

In the end, I haggled down the price a bit to seven silver coins and the four of us strolled the marketplace while snacking on it.

Apparently Mia takes a liking to this grape and I've been made to promise to buy a large amount of it on our way back.

Well, it's good enough that I want to let other girls taste it too so there's no problem there.

After more walking, we came to a fountain in the center of the marketplace.

The top of the fountain is decorated with a bronze statue of a good looking man wearing admiral-like outfit.

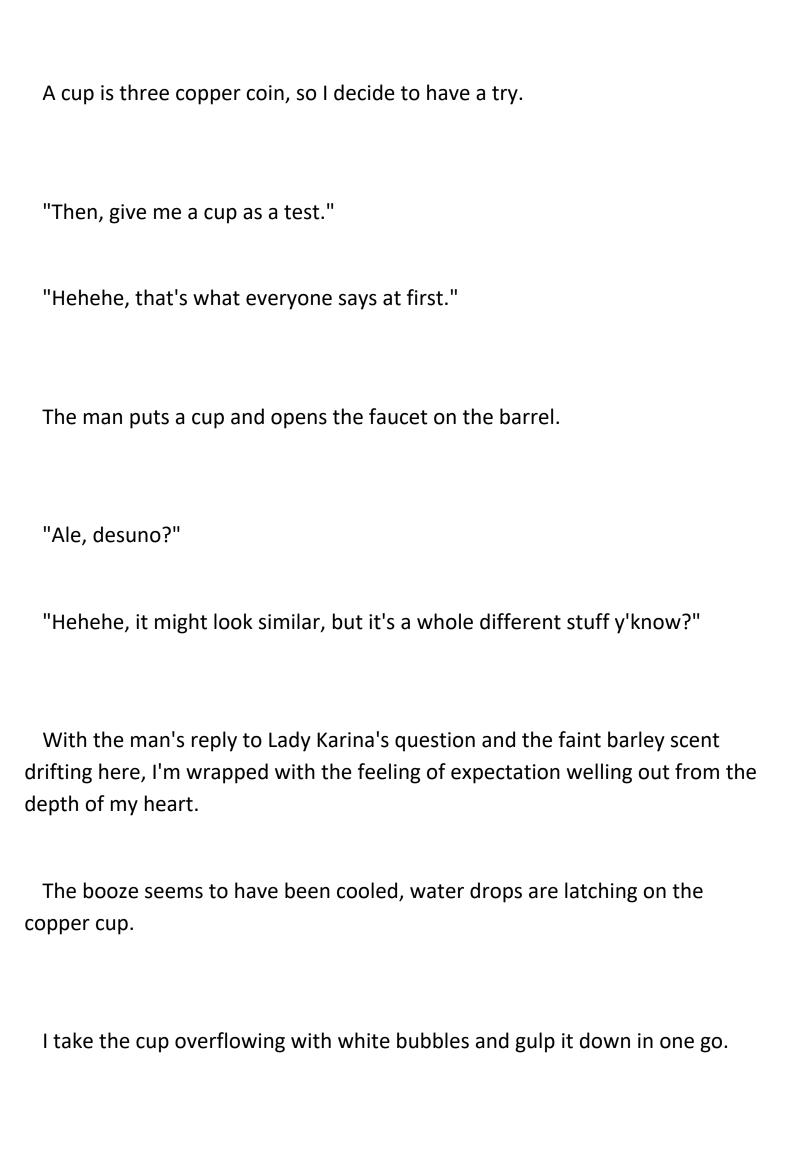
According to the plate at the bottom of the statue, he seems to be a hero from 800 years ago who drove away a pirate called [Skeleton King] who rampaged around the sea back then, he united poor countries that were fighting against each other and laid the foundation for the present day Garleon Union.

That Hero, Kite, led an invincible army that won against pirates and foreign invasions.

His Unique Skill must be a type that strengthens army.









He's a Japanese boy summoned by Rumooku Kingdom, an owner of a lost skill that taught me the recipe for dried gourd.

He's also probably the one who taught the way to make this beer.

And then, I sensed glances and looked over there, Princess Sistina and Lady Karina had expressions like they found it slightly surprising.

Looks like they found my Beer Fever surprising.

When I teleported to Hayato's world back then, my mind was fully preoccupied with instant food and electrical appliances as souvenirs and forgot to buy alcohol.

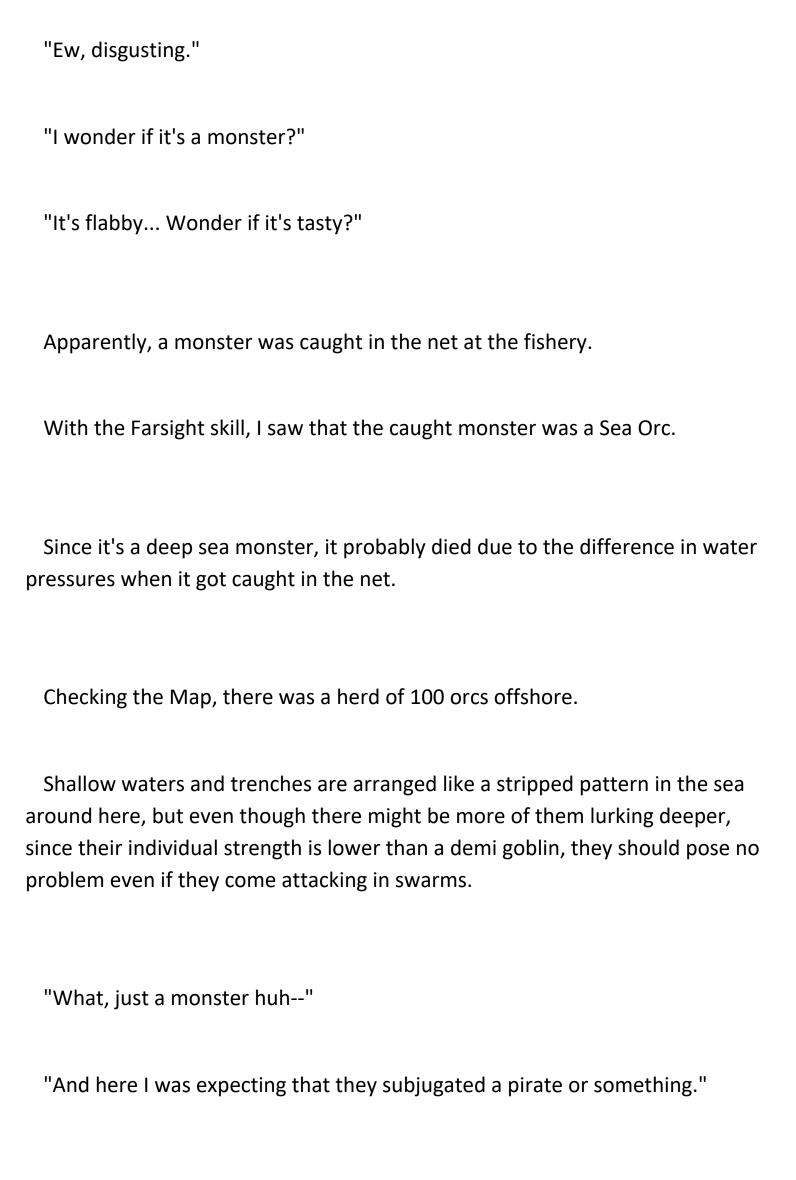
Yet, indiscreetly going to another world just for the sake of booze, the cost is just too high, thus I've been patiently waiting for the opportunity.

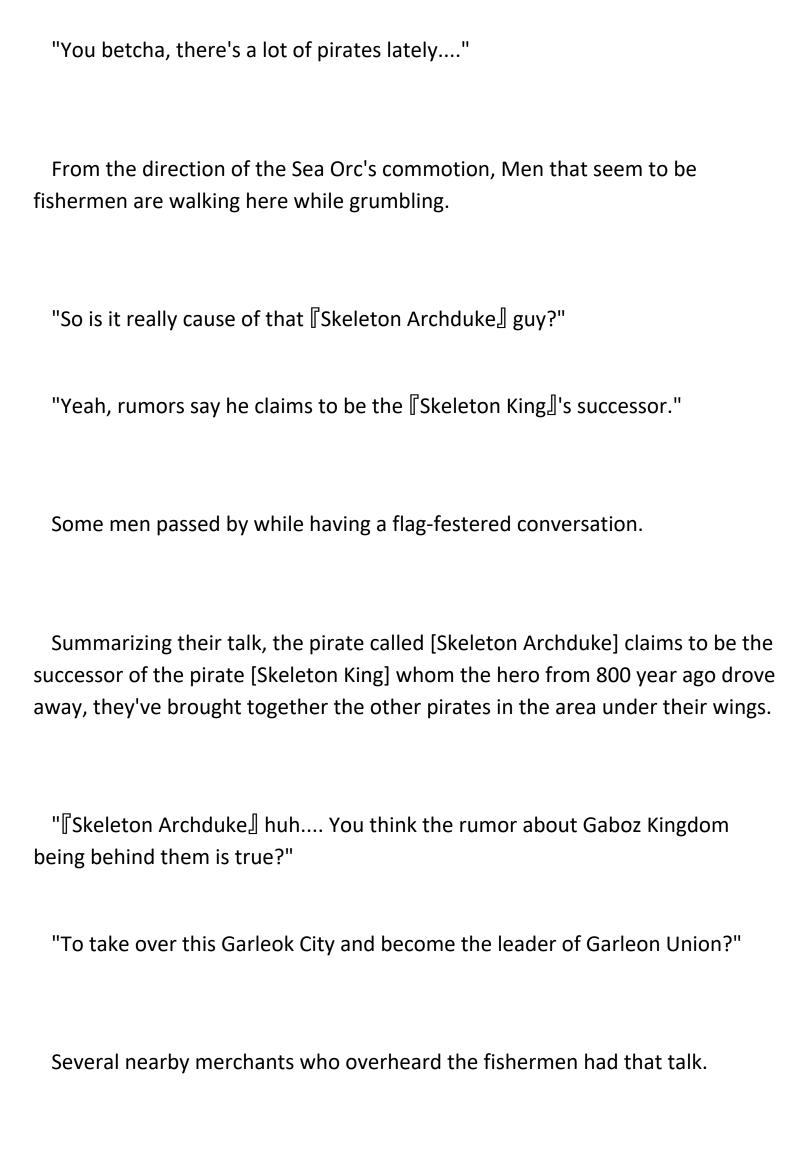
But with this, I might not need to go to Japan for a while now.

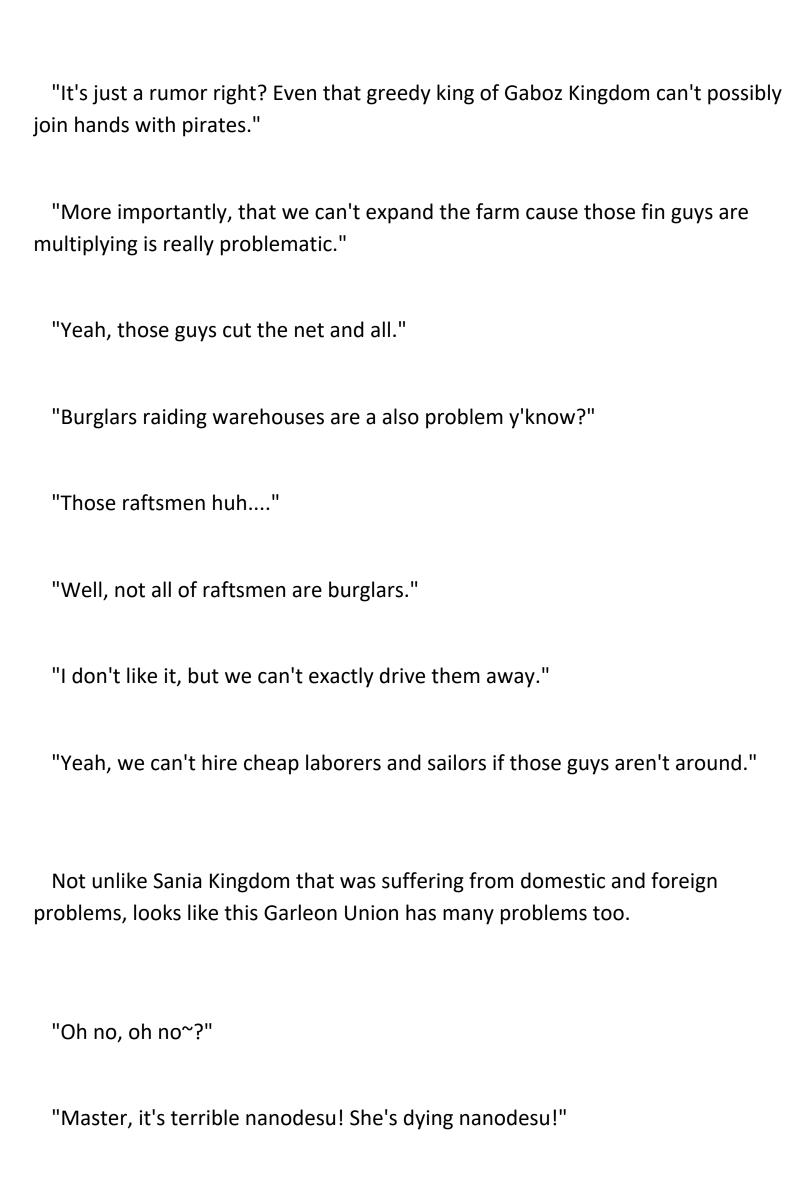
"Sistina-sama, would you like to try a cup?"

"No, I'd like to refrain drinking in bright daytime."

The youth troupe and Lady Karina looked like they wanted to drink it, but things would get hectic if these girls whose resistance to alcohol is zero got drunk, so I didn't brought it up to them. Since Arisa is probably going to want it, I'll go to the brewery and purchase several barrels later. After that delightful event, we resumed the market stroll and continued to feast while walking on the street. "Clamor~?" "Nn, clatter." Tama and Mia reacted to a commotion ahead of us. We followed on the voices and came to a part of the port connected to the marketplace. People have gathered around a fishing boat anchored to one of the piers. "How terrifying."



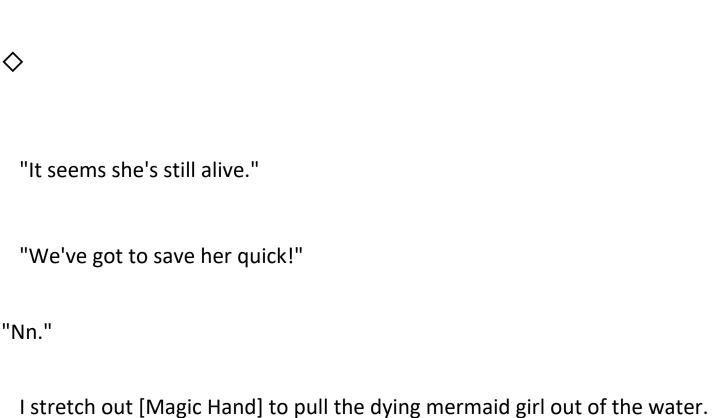




Tama and Pochi who were looking at the surface of the sea from the wharf beckoned me in a panic.
"Mermaid?"
A finfolk kin girl in critical condition has been washed ashore there.

16-26. Garleon Union (2)

Satou here. Apparently, those who excel at crossdressing can look more woman than a real woman. And since they've been getting the help of image processing on top of make-up, finding a natural beauty is getting harder these days.



But before I managed to do that, a water splash erupted and blond ringlets were spread on the surface of the sea.

Apparently, Lady Karina beat me to it and made a dive into the sea.

Mia and Princess Sistina looked surprised to see that.

Lady Karina lifts the mermaid up to pass it to us, but of course, doing that means she'd sink into the sea herself.

It might be a good idea to let her play at the Isolated Island's beach more.

I lift up Lady Karina to the surface of the sea with [Magic Hand], take the mermaid girl, and pull Lady Karina by the wrist to the pier.

Her wet chest has turned into something incredible, physically speaking, but staring too much isn't good here, so I cover it with some cloth and use life magic to dry her.

"Extreme fatigue."

According to Mia sensei's diagnosis, the mermaid girl--or rather, mermaid little girl seems to have fainted due to fatigue.

There's no clansmen of hers around here on the Map, so she probably either drifted from afar, or she was caught by pirates and managed to escape.

"Okay, doesn't seem like she's hurt anywhere."

There were some scratches and peeled-off scales here and there on her body, I sprinkled magic potion on her to heal them just in case.

Since mermaids--finfolks breath through lungs, I'm thinking of leaving her treatment to the brownies on the airship and ask about her situations later.

I'll send her back to her home later as long as she wasn't getting cruelly treated there or something.



"Looking up close like this, it's quite an elaborate temple."

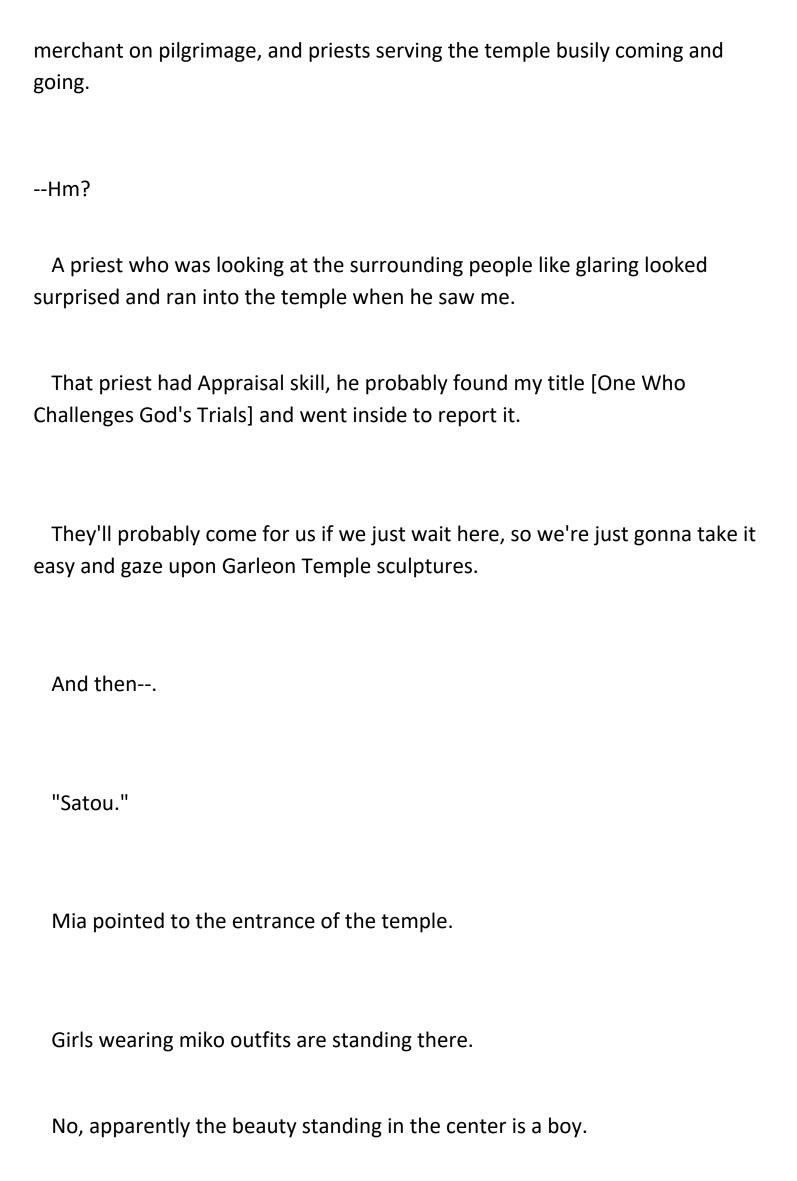
"Yes, those are some splendid-looking sculptures."

"Nn, gorgeous."

From a distance, Garleon Temple looked like a plain gray temple, but when we've gotten closer, it's clearly adorned with unique sculptures, it wouldn't be strange if it were registered as a World Heritage site.

Upon further inspections, the building isn't entirely gray, there's also colors of silver and unusual metal called black steel as its ornaments.

As one might expect from a central temple, there's a lot of wealthy looking



According to AR readings, he carries the titles, [Shaman] and [Medium]. I did notice some male mike during Aze-san's oblation dance, but this might be the first time I've seen one outside the elf hometown.

From what I heard at my cousin's shrine, [Shaman (Fugeki)] is apparently the general term, and [Medium (Kannagi)] is a term for male miko, but it appears that [Shaman] in this world is used to refer males with Oracle skill.

As a matter of fact, none of the miko with [Oracle] I know has [Shaman] title.

The miko(s) are staring right at me while ignoring the pilgrims who have begun to pray around them.

There's no point feigning ignorance here, so I walk to them.

"Welcome to Garleon Temple--o one who challenges the Trial of God."

The shaman boy who was standing in the center greeted me.

The surrounding pilgrims who heard him were surprised and turned their gazes at me.

According to AR readings, the boy is called Sauani, he's this Garleon City



It seems Mia can't decide if she can [Guilty] me, her eyebrows roll around, she looks confused.

Lady Karina is munching on the snacks and tea while looking unamused, Princess Sistina is pondering who's the 'attacker' and the 'receiver' in a low voice. It seems like she's really been thoroughly educated by the former demon lord Shizuka.

"No I don't, it's just an observation I had. I know it from your build, you see."

I replied with something random yet convincing with the help of Deception skill.

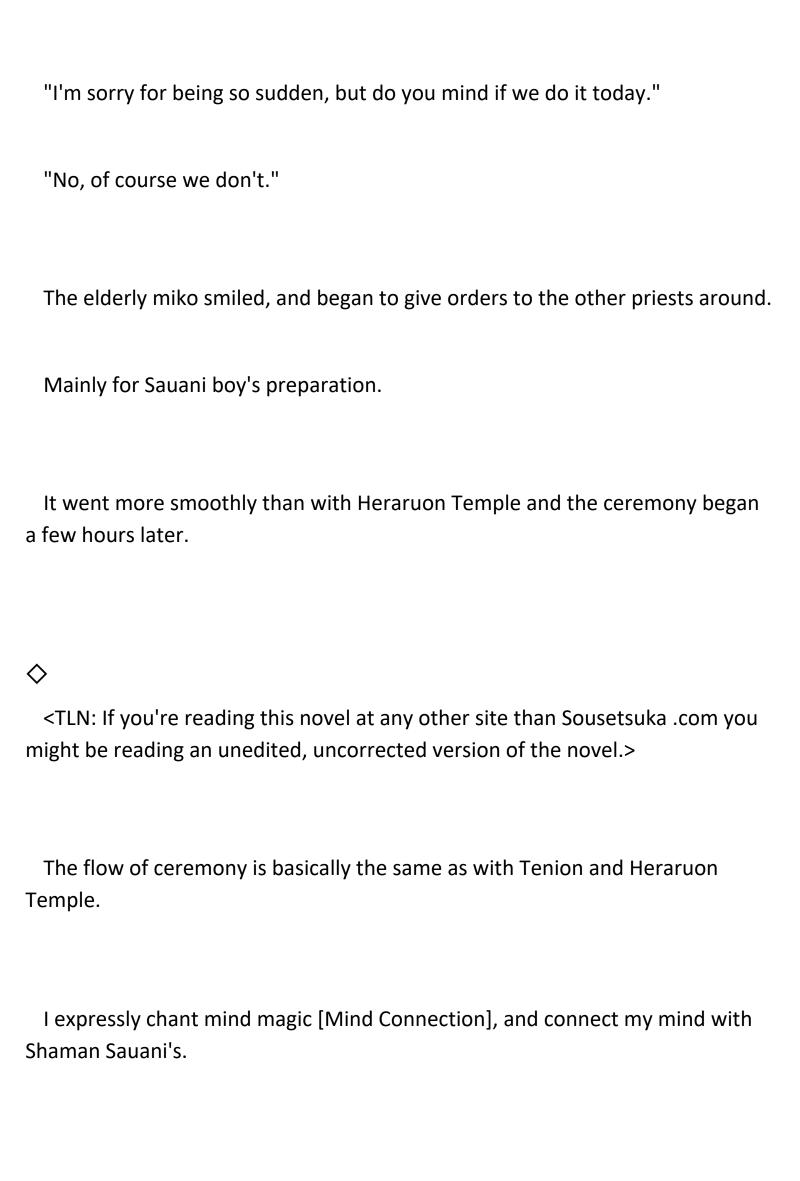
Of course, I didn't forget to peel off Sauani boy in the meantime.

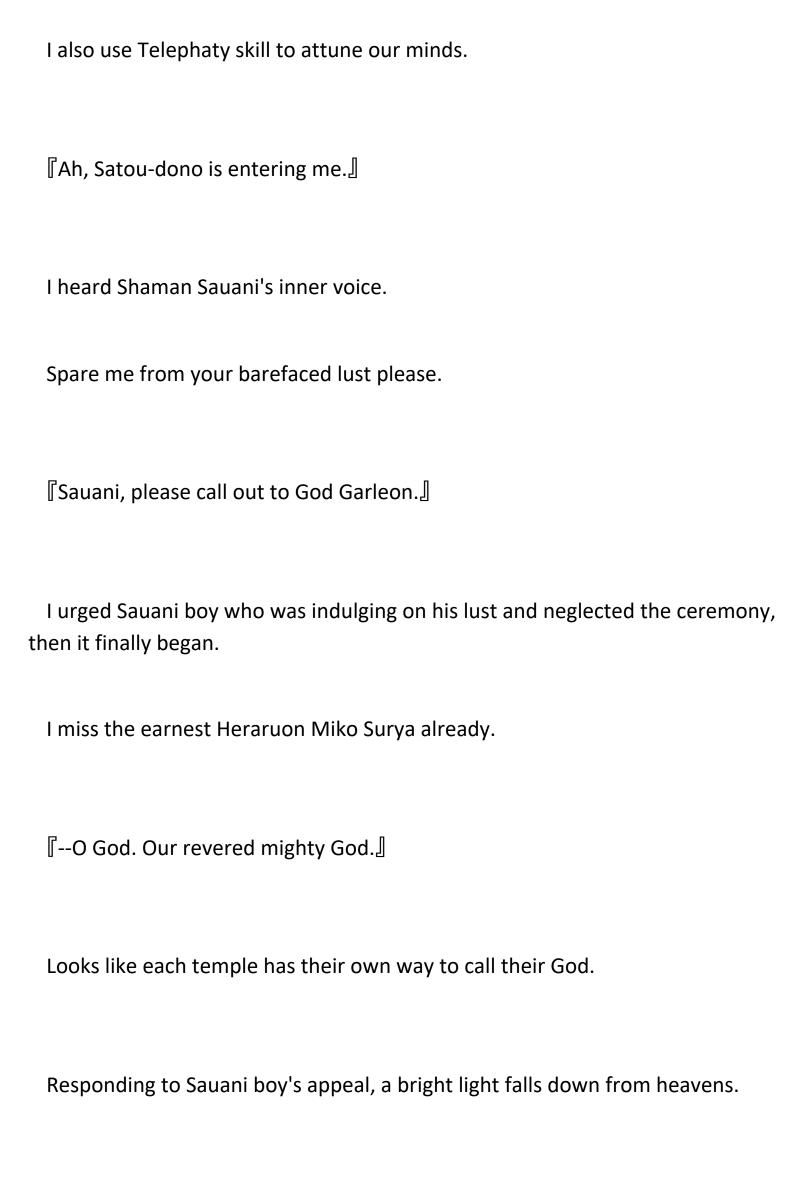
"The more contact we have the better for the oracle, you know?"

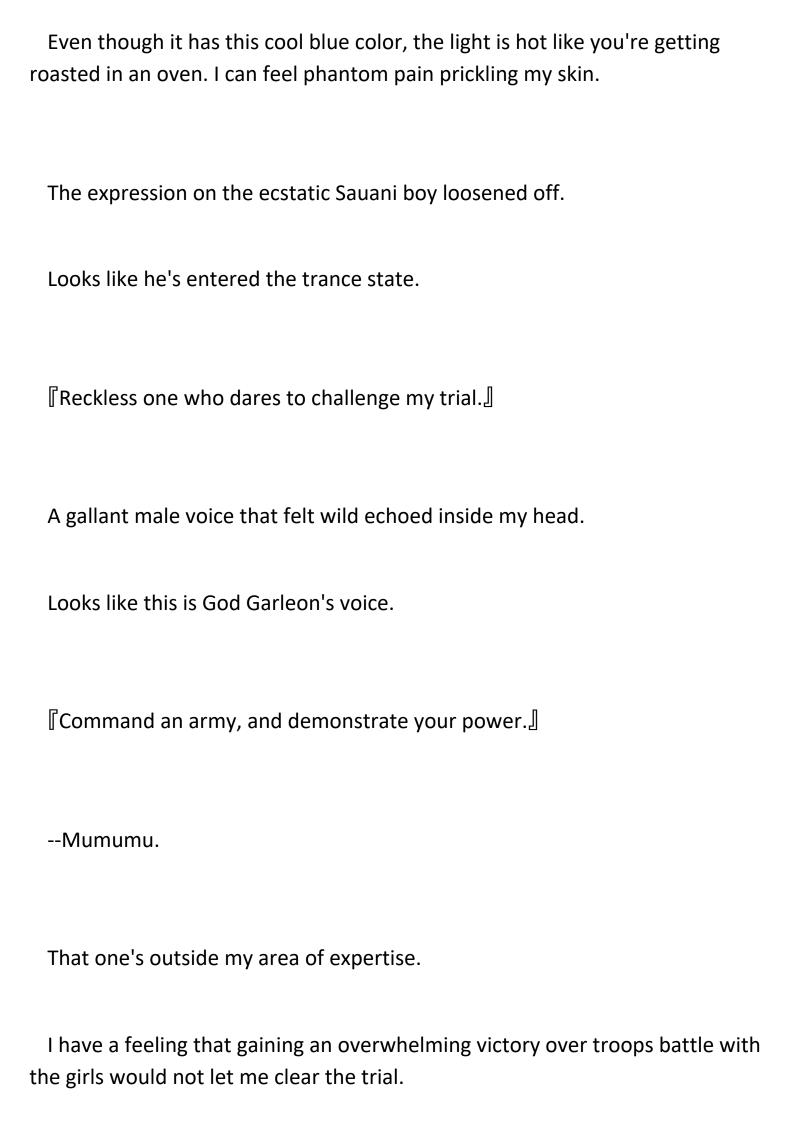
"There is no need to worry about that. By using the secret art of Heraruon Temple, we can perform the oracle simply with joining hands."

For some reason, Sauani boy looked dejected when I told him that.

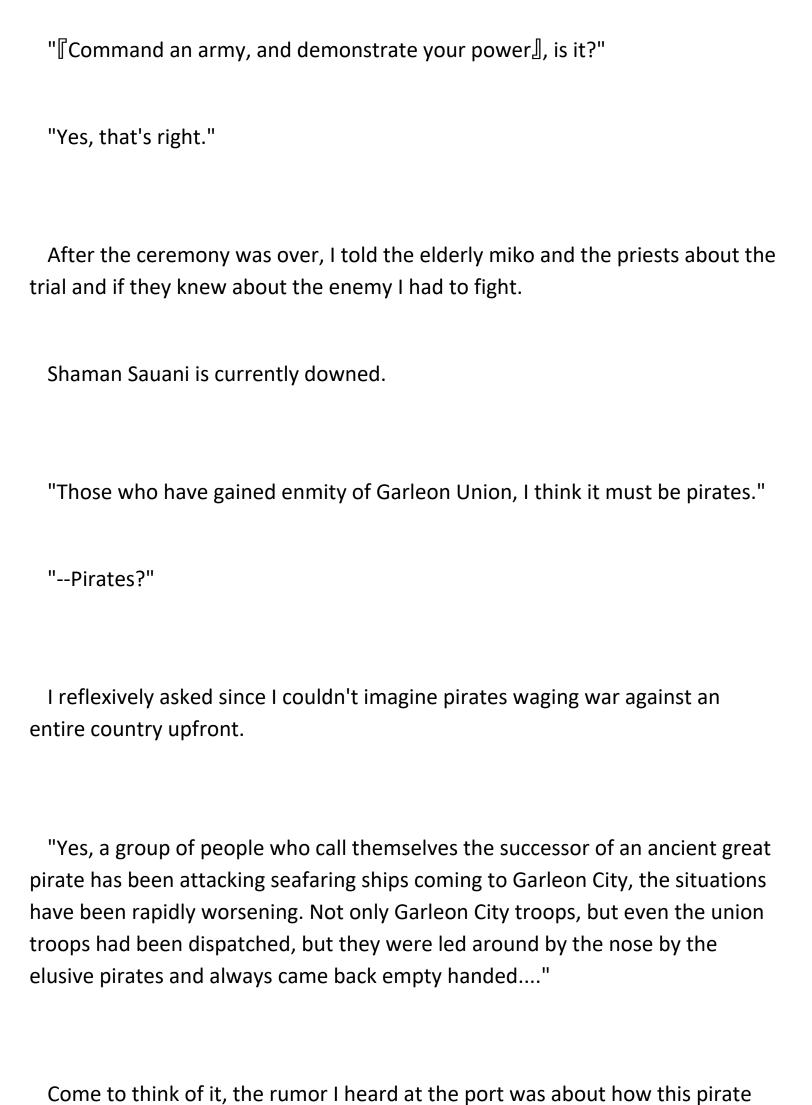
Why do you look so down.
Retorting with that would be my undoing, I'll take the [Silence is Golden] proverb to heart and ignore him here.
"I'd like to inquire God Garleon regarding the trial, what do you suppose I should do?"
"The temple has prepared for it."
The elderly miko answered my question in the dejected miko's place.
"By the Star of Fate, if your excellency miss today, you'd have to wait for another 10 days, what would your excellency do?"
"I'm ready anytime."
I powerfully nodded to the elderly miko.
After learning about the [Star of Fate] stuff at Heraruon Temple, I had Sera lectured me about it at the Solitary Island Palace, and knew that today was the best time for it.



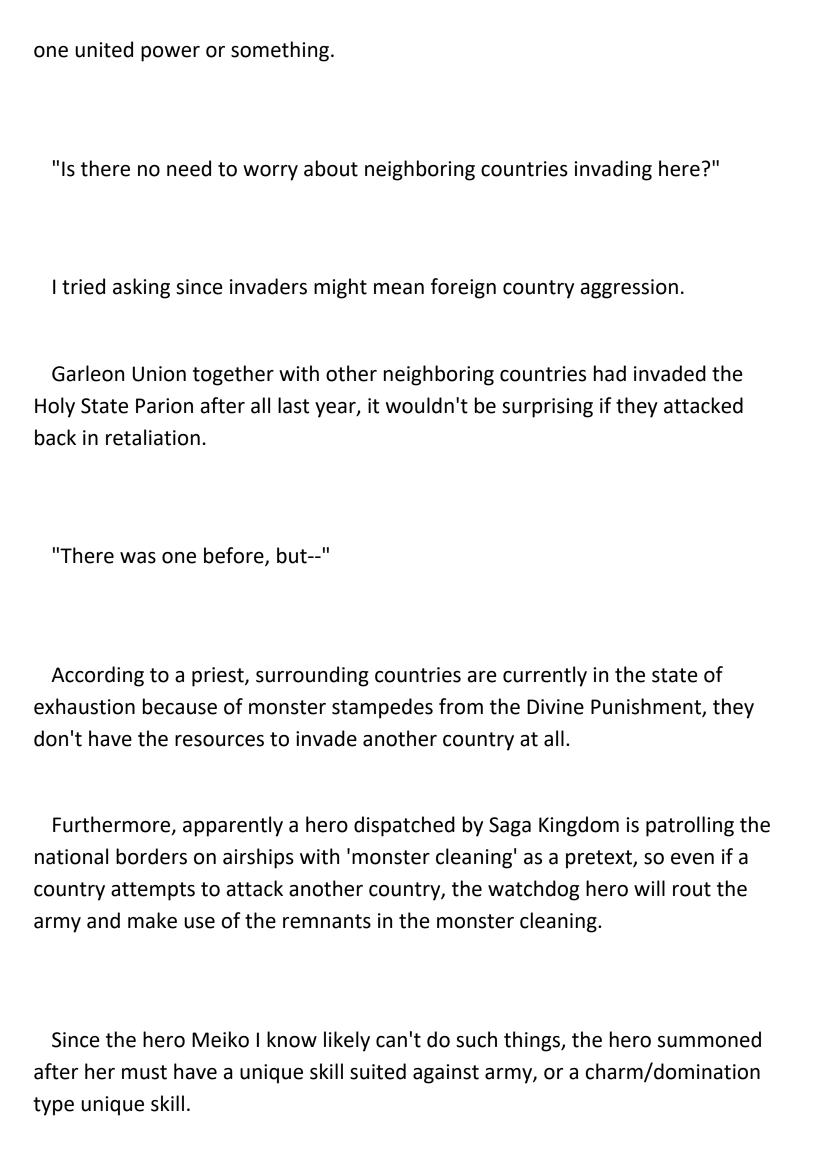


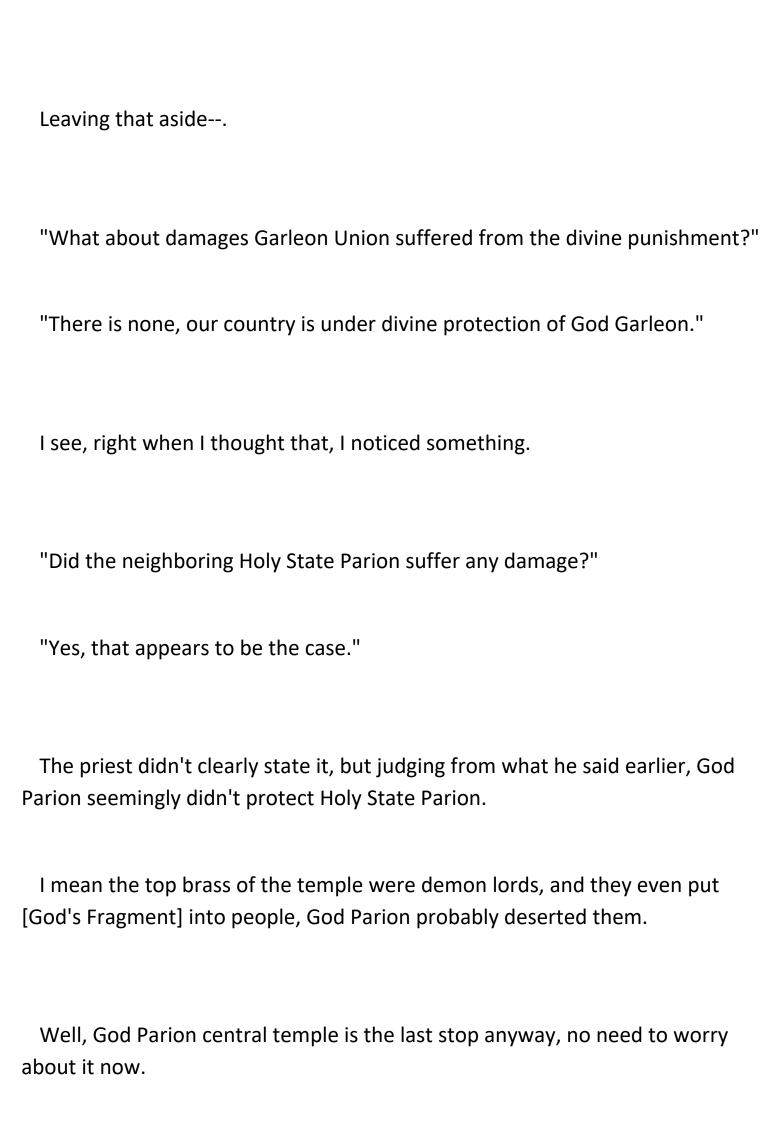


[Use my servants to protect the country and eliminate the invaders.]
A golden ship's wheel adorned with jewels comes up in my mind.
Just like with God Heraruon's golden sword, this wheel is probably a proof to be recognized as God Garleon's representative.
[I shall give thee my mark when the people revere my name far and wide.]
This one feels similar to what God Heraruon said.
『God Garleon, who are this invaders?』
I tried asking him that, but God Garleon cut off the connection without a word.
Just like God Heraruon, looks like he doesn't like playing catch with words.
♦



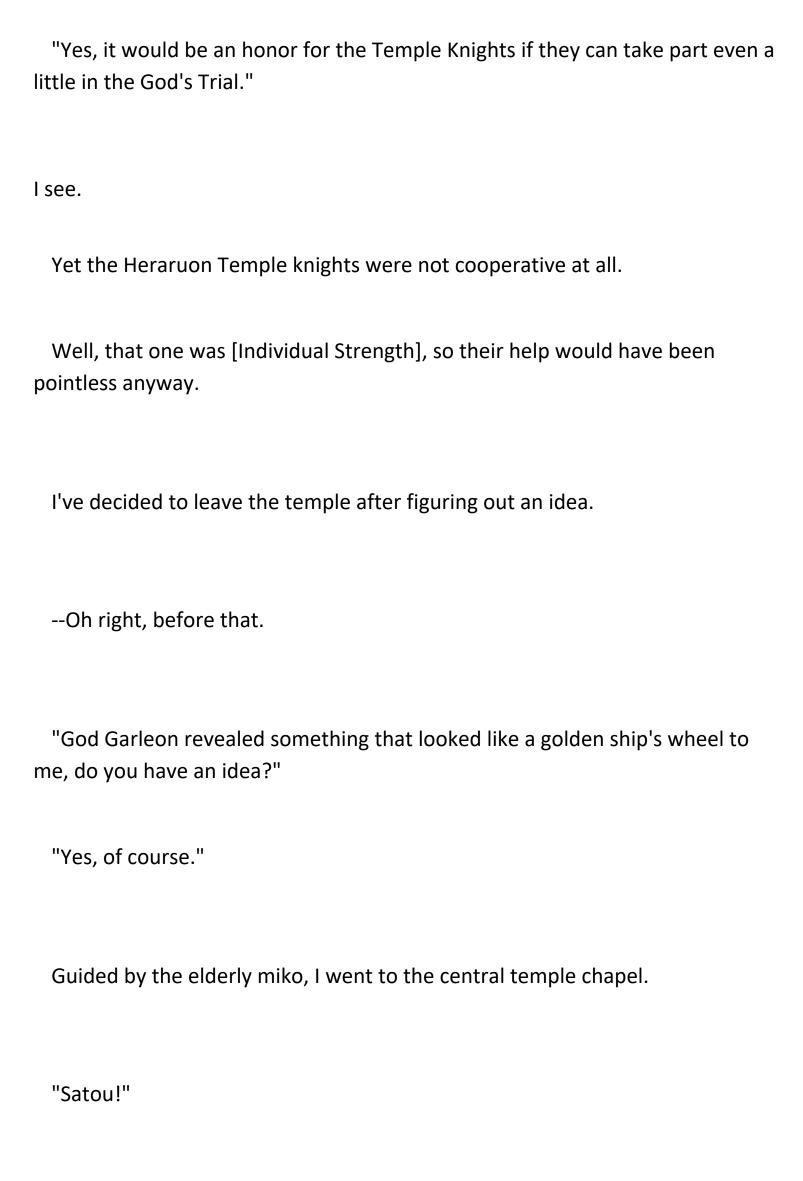
called [Skeleton Archduke] rounding up pirates around the nearby ocean into



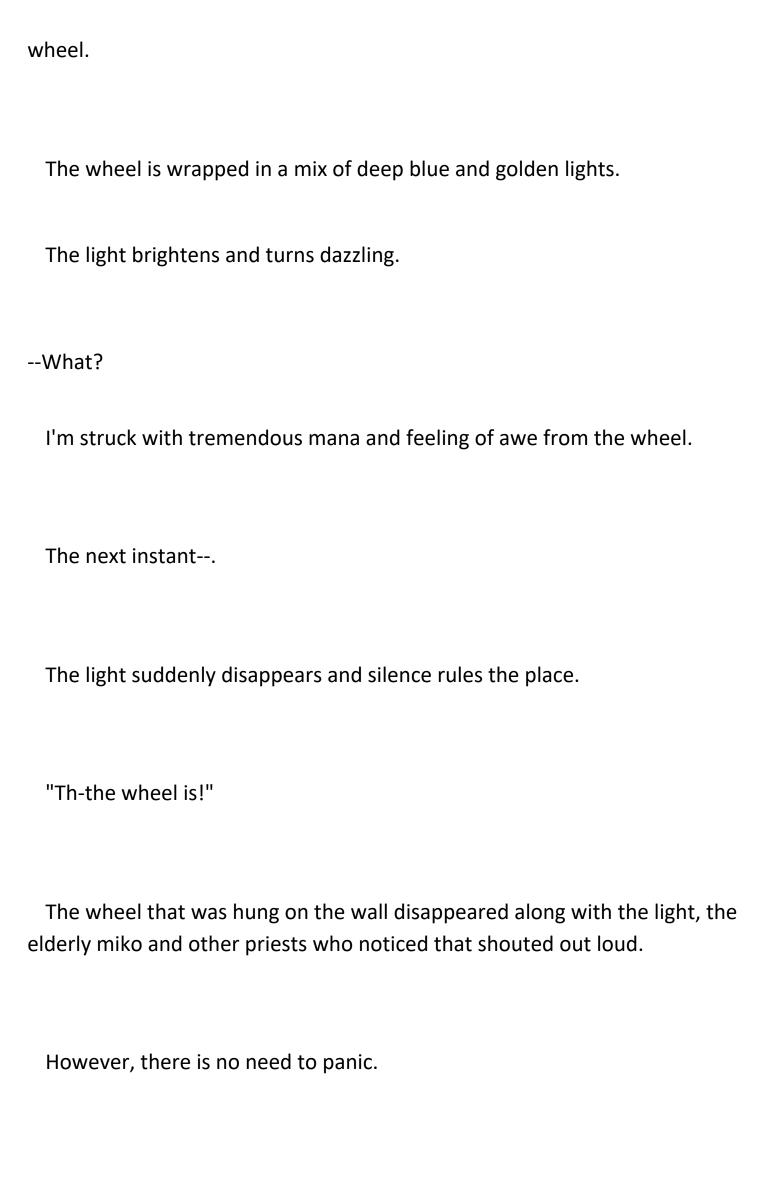


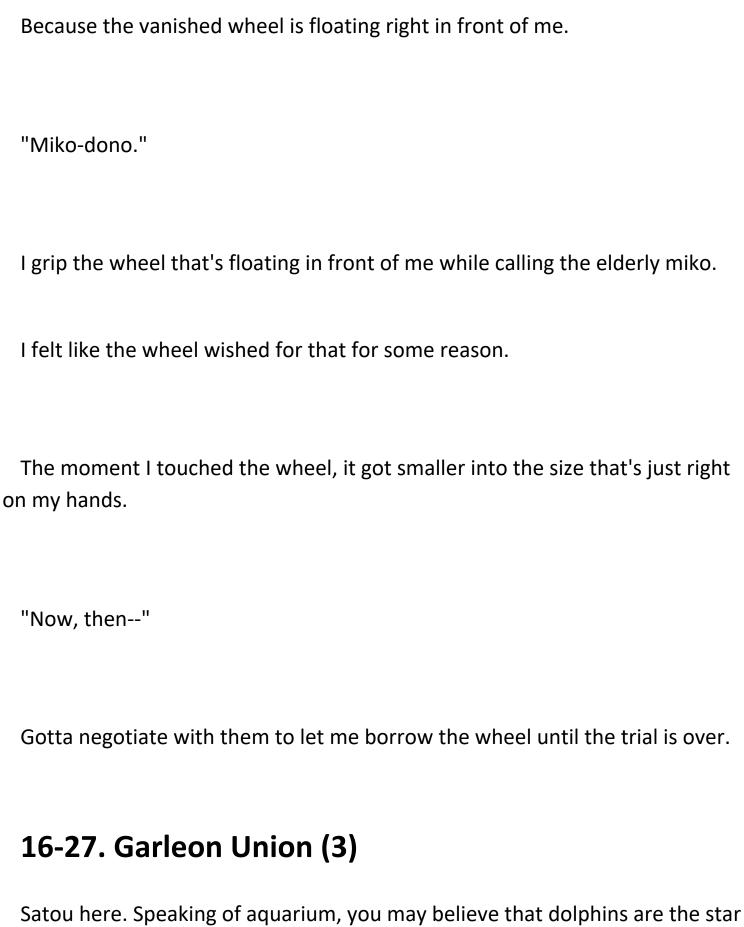
"The conversation wandered off a bit. If Garleon Union does not suffer any damage, won't cities within Garleon Union attack other cities within the union?"
It doesn't seem like they're monolithic after all, thus there's a possibility of other cities going on a war to take the leadership position.
As for other possibility, neighboring countries might cause domestic problems inside Garleon Union to prevent the union from invading them.
"Is your excellency aware of Gaboz Kingdom?"
The elderly miko spoke of the name of a small country that's trying to take the leadership position of Garleon Union I heard in the rumor.
"No, not in particular."
"Countries within the union cannot attack each other with their army."
The elderly miko declared that.

"However"
"It's not about ethics nor is it a wishful thinking. Countries within Garleon Union cannot break the pact they have signed under God Garleon's name."
The elderly miko interrupted me and gave an explanation.
The pact is far more powerful than even slave contract, even kings and city mayors who rule over City Core cannot undo it.
If they broke the pact, all of their populace will be given the unpardonable sin of [Betrayal].
Looks like exchanging some weird promises with Gods could get messy.
I should be careful.
"Well then, with current situations, the highest possibility is naval battles with the pirates then."
"Yes, that's right. If your excellency is going to lead the army, Garleon Temple will be happy to lend our Temple Knights."
"Is that fine?"

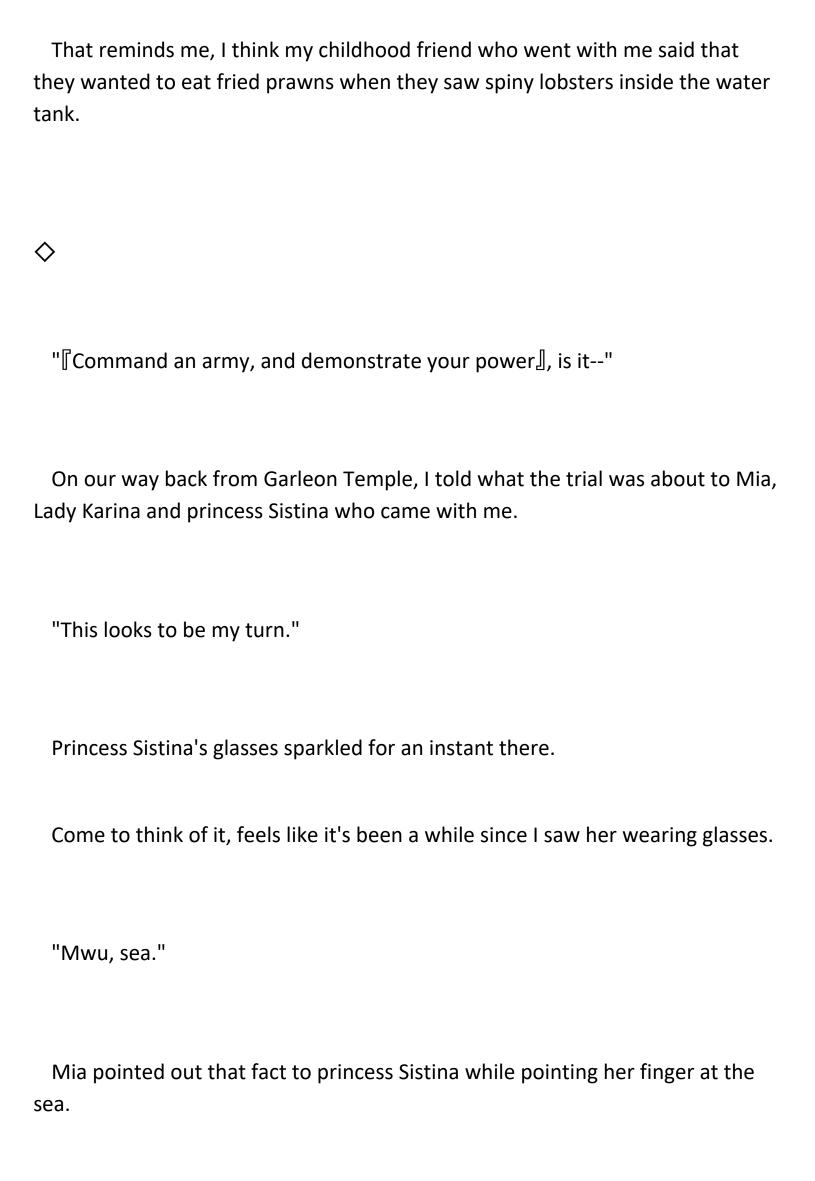




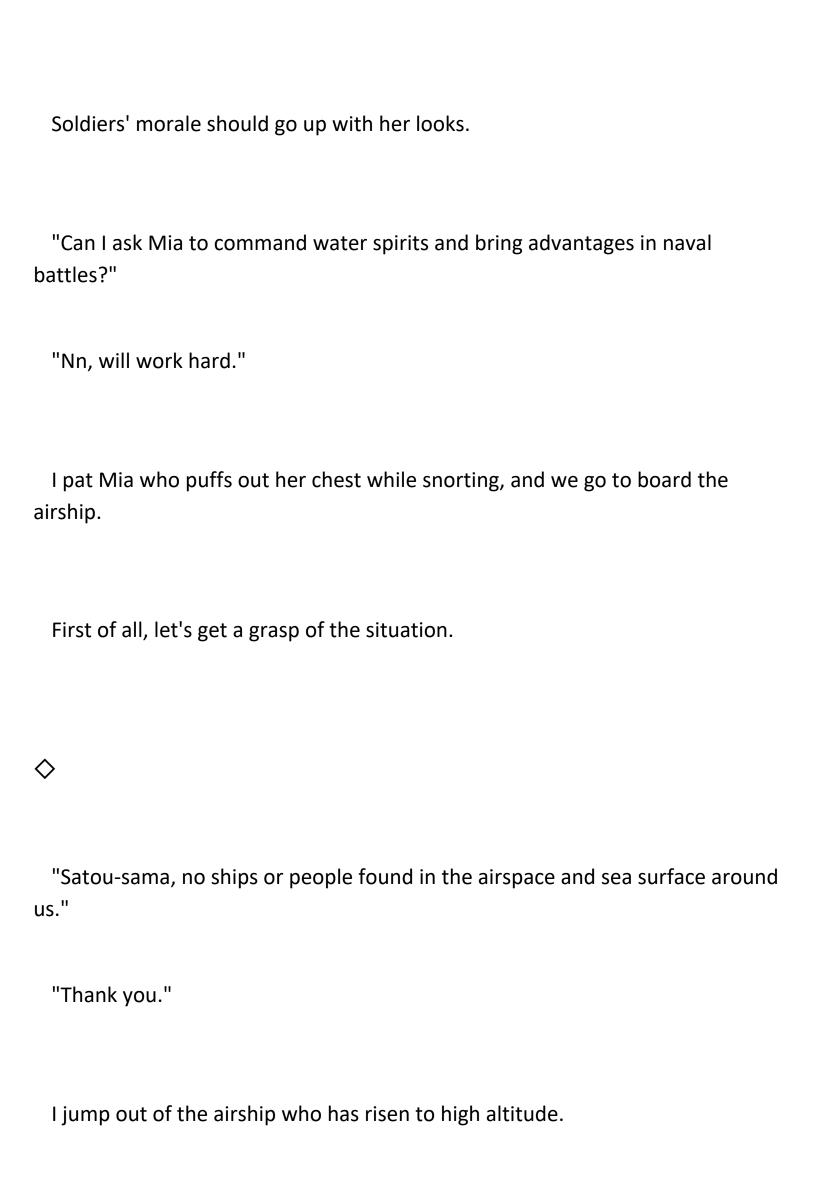


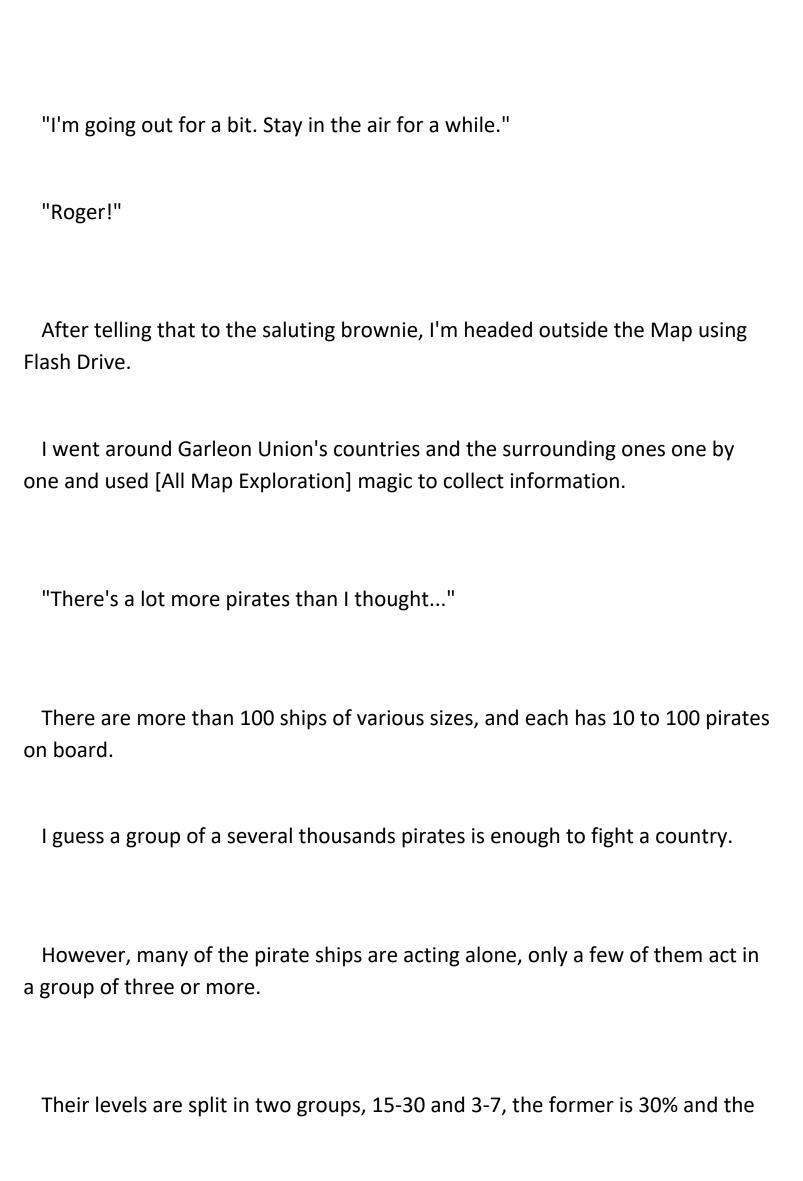


Satou here. Speaking of aquarium, you may believe that dolphins are the star of the show, but I don't think you could dismiss the seals that can move in high speeds underwater contrary to their looks, and the cute penguins and their behavior.



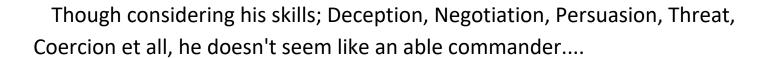
"Oh right... My golems can't float on water, can they." "But they can help defending the coasts. I can also prepare wooden golems for you if we're going to let them on board a ship." Wooden golem is generally not suited for combat-use, but since its fighting prowess far surpasses your average soldier, it should work fine against pirates. "I also want to take part in it desuwa!" "Agreed." Mia nodded to reply Lady Karina. Unlike princess Sistina, Lady Karina who specializes in close-quarter combat and Mia who controls individually high-powered artificial spirits aren't the type that can lead an army by themselves. "Then, I'll be asking Karina-sama to cut through the front lines as a vanguard unit." "Yes, bring it on desuwa!"





latter is 70%.
The strongest looking pirate is level 43, even Lady Karina can win if they act alone.
The pirates mostly consist of humans and beastkins.
The sea beastkins are mostly of gillmen, and not a lot of mermaids.
Most of the pirates are either sailing around the oceans in a fleet of ships, or staying at independent towns and settlements located in groups of islands or areas of oceans with lots of reefs to make shaking off pursuers easier.
"And the Skeleton Archduke isthere it is."
The one who has that title is a ship captain of the flagship of a fleet of small warships, his level is surprisingly low at 24.
He's probably the type that commands people well, his individual strength itself is low.
I mean, even the ships he's commanding look more like an armed force of a

country than that of pirates.



"Fumu, am I just imagining things?"

About 30% of the pirate ships are heading toward the port where the Skeleton Archduke's ship is anchored.

Have they really joined forces, and do they really intend to attack Garleon Union?

"As for Garleon Union military forces--"

They have a lot of merchant ships, but not a whole lot of pure battle ships.

After leaving out the small ships used for protecting the coasts and discovering smuggling activities, there's only around 60 medium and large ships equipped with mana furnaces and mana cannons. Garleok City itself only has nine of those.

There are some excellent soldiers and commanders whose levels exceed 30, but they're few and far between, most of the fighting personnels are weak soldiers with single digit level.

As for mercenaries hired with money to guard merchant ships, more than half of them are criminals and former pirates who are shouldering offense, and there are even ships with active pirates working part-time as mercenaries.

These guard ships are mostly galley boats and galley ships, only a few are equipped with mana furnace.

There are around 90 of these guard ships in total in the Garleon Union.

The mercenary guards' levels are higher than the pirate's on average, but even the best one is only level 31, so you can say that their individual strength is lower.

If they bring the whole army together, they should be able to easily win against the pirates.

As long as they don't split with mercenaries or there is no city or country that secedes from the union, they should be able to win unless their commander is extremely incompetent.

Well, bringing the entire army together is the difficult part though.

"Now then--"

I went out to the open sea and checked out the depth dwelling monsters while I was at it.

The dangerous looking ones are only level 50-70 large monsters called [Those that Lurk in the Abyss], the other monsters aren't much different from any other oceans.

The Sea Orcs I saw at Garleok City port were also there, but it was just a swarm of barely 100 orcs, no real need to subjugate them.

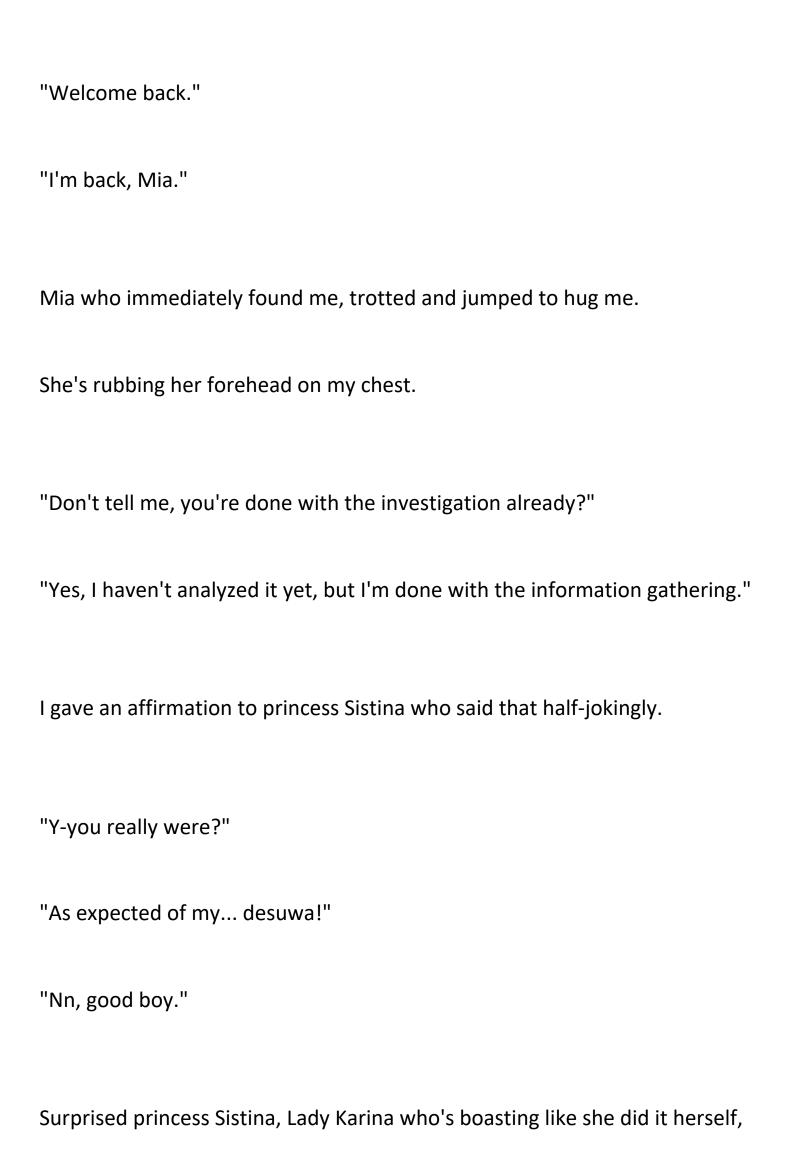
"Next, the hometown of the mermaid we saved back at the port--found it."

The Map north of the Garleok City are dotted with mermaid villages, and one of them appears to be the mermaid little girl's home.

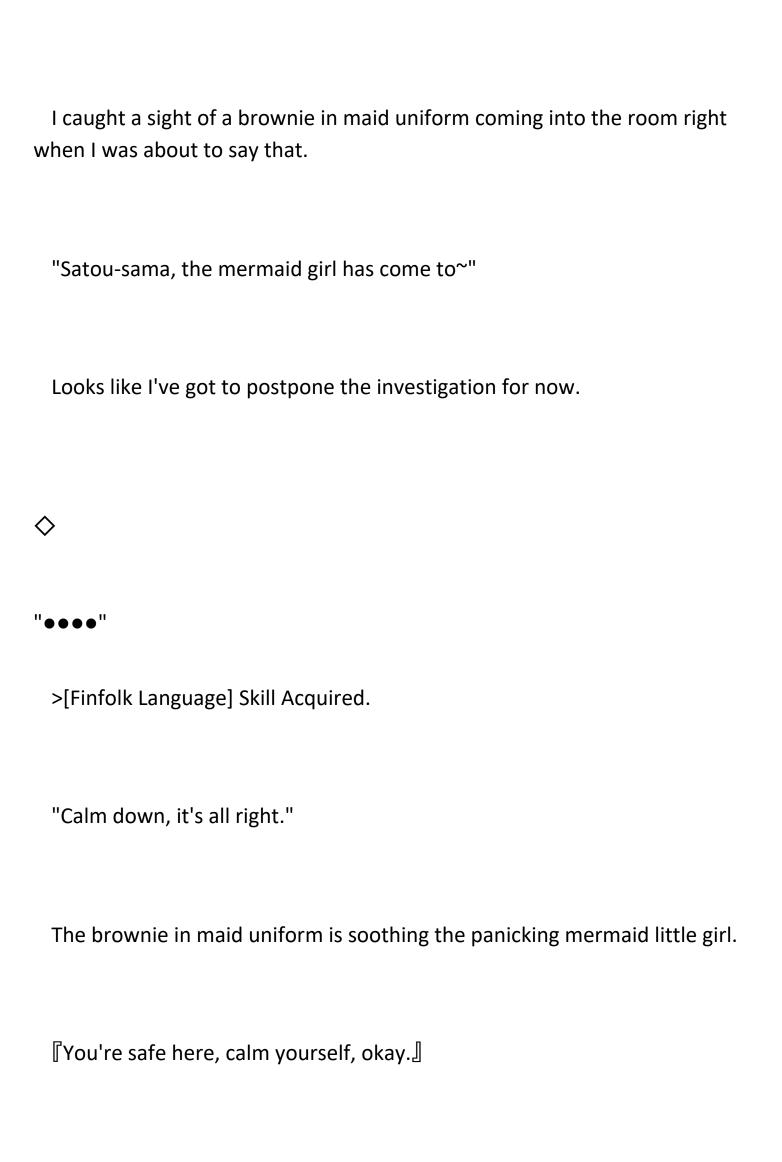
After gathering all the info I need, I return to the airship's deck with Unit Arrangement.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>







I talk to the mermaid little girl while using [Translate] magic.

I thought of allocating skill points like I did at Sania Kingdom back then, but since it didn't seem to be related to the trial this time, I used force magic [Translate] instead.

[...Language of Nifu. Spoken by human? Where is this?]

The translation being rough at first seems to be a quirk of this magic.

This place is near the port where you got washed ashore.

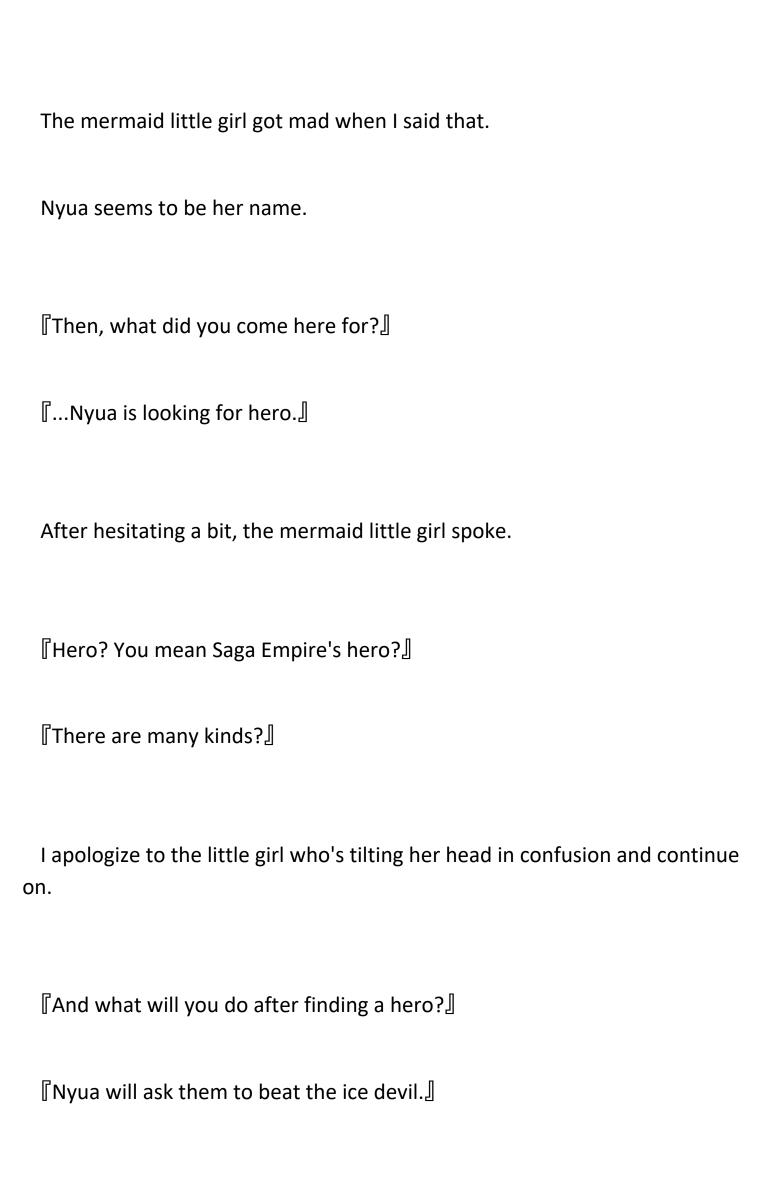
[Human town?]

[Are you familiar with Garleon Union and Garleok City?]

The mermaid little girl shook her head to reply my question.

I don't mind sending you back to your hometown if you're lost, how about it?

[Nyua is not lost!]



According to the mermaid little girl, the ice devil--apparently a derogatory term for demon--brought an island of ice in the middle of the night, freezing the sea where her hometown was located.

Fearing the ice devil, apparently the mermaids were forced to move their homes to the sea near Garleon Union.

-- Maybe demons are acting behind the scene here?

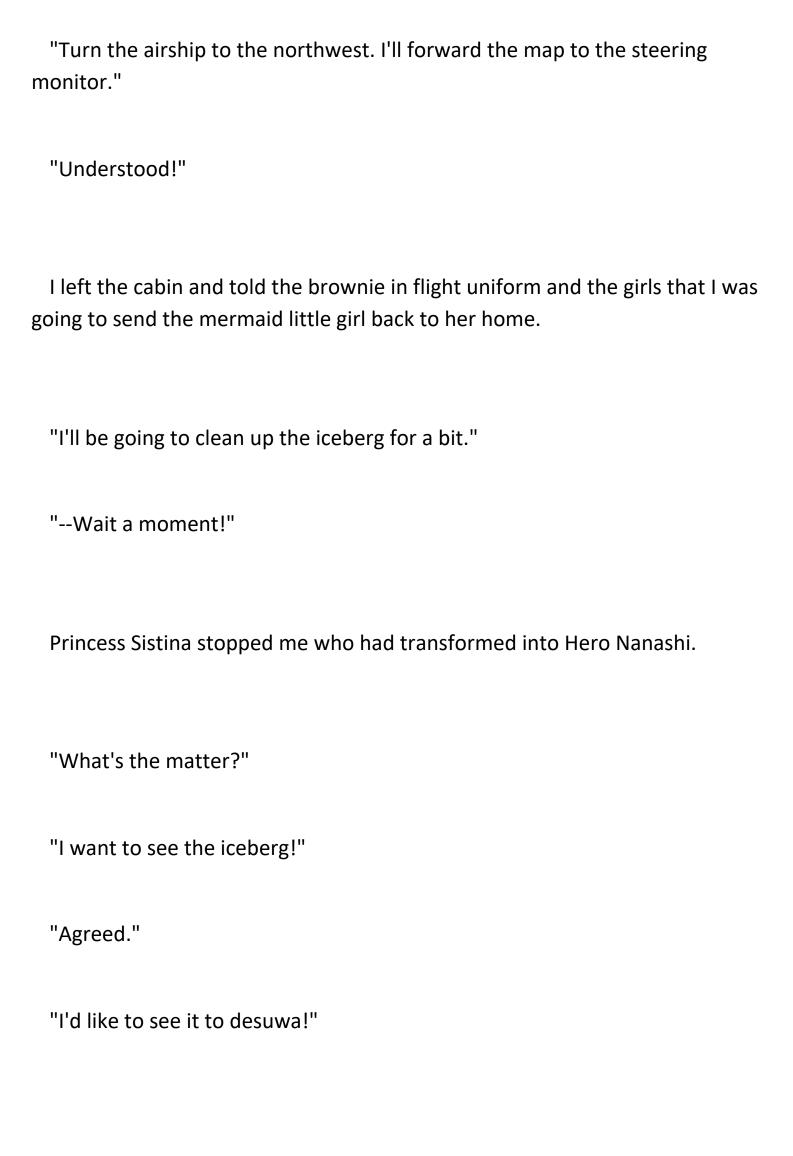
I tried checking the mermaid hometown on the map, but even though I found a huge iceberg, I didn't see a demon.

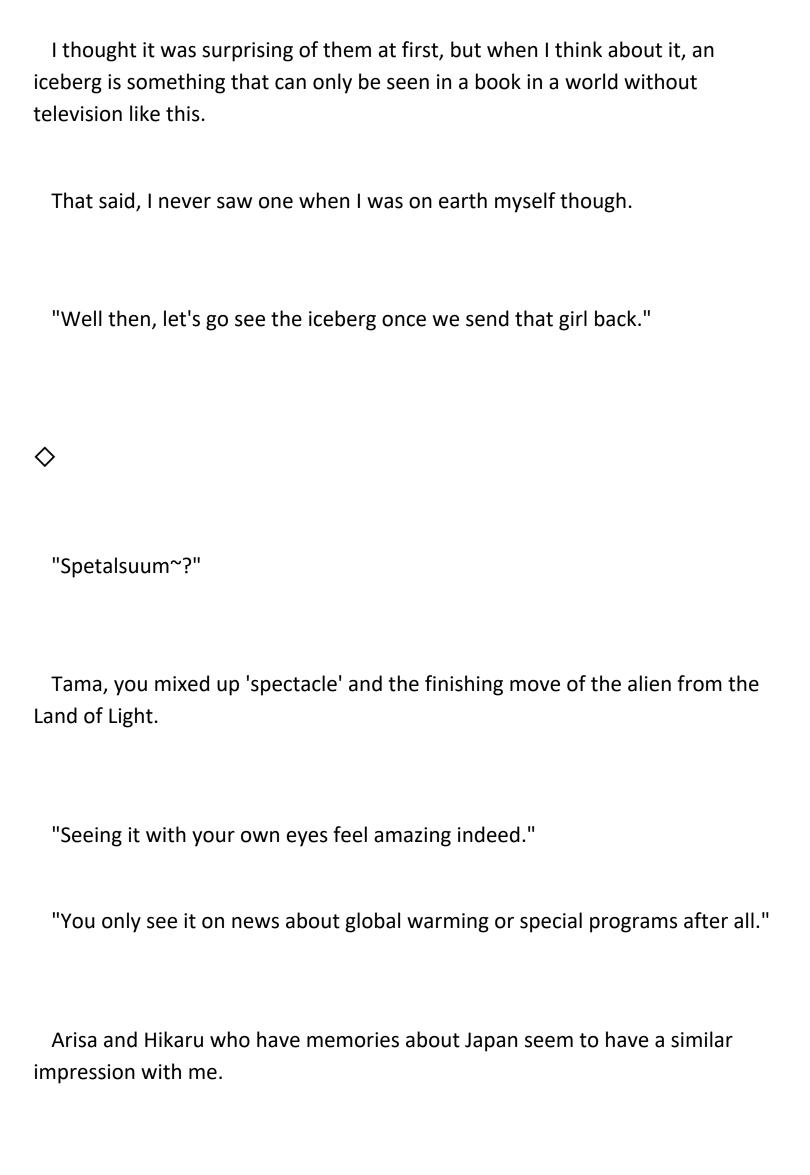
Got it. I know a hero that can help you, I'll ask him to do something about it okay.

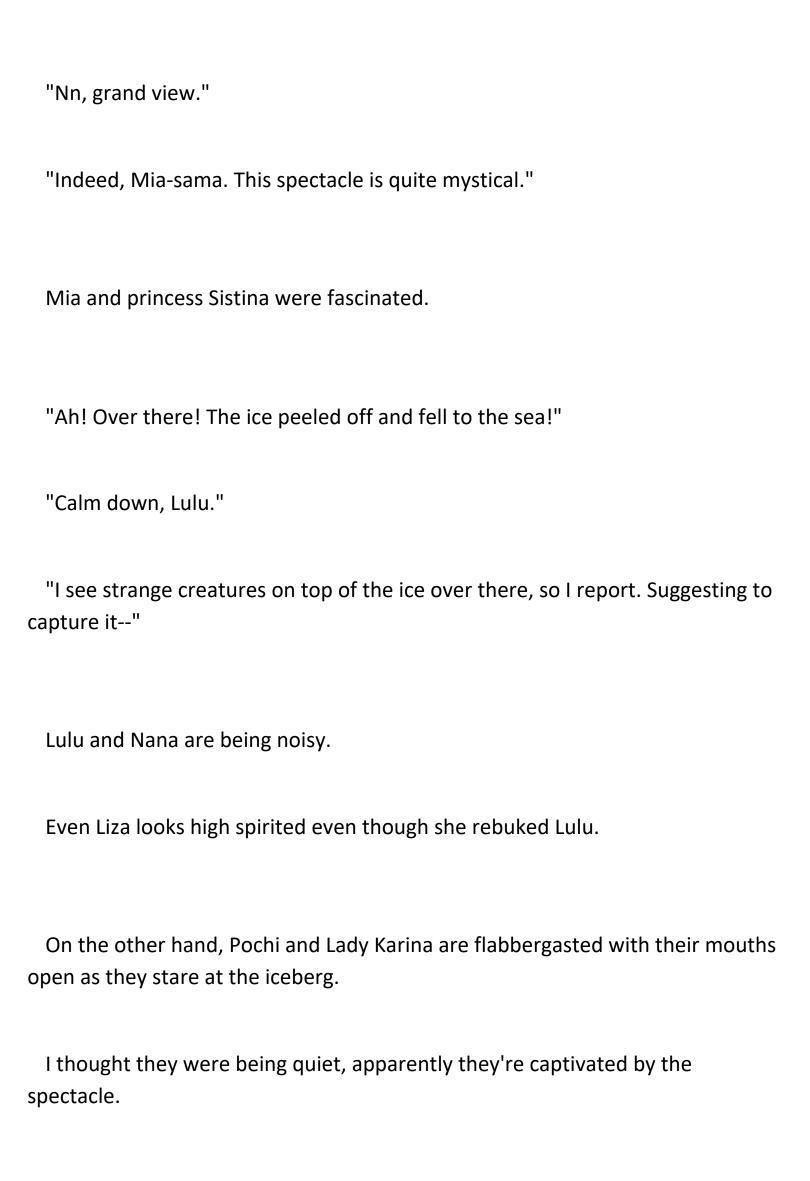
[Really?]

[Yes, really.]

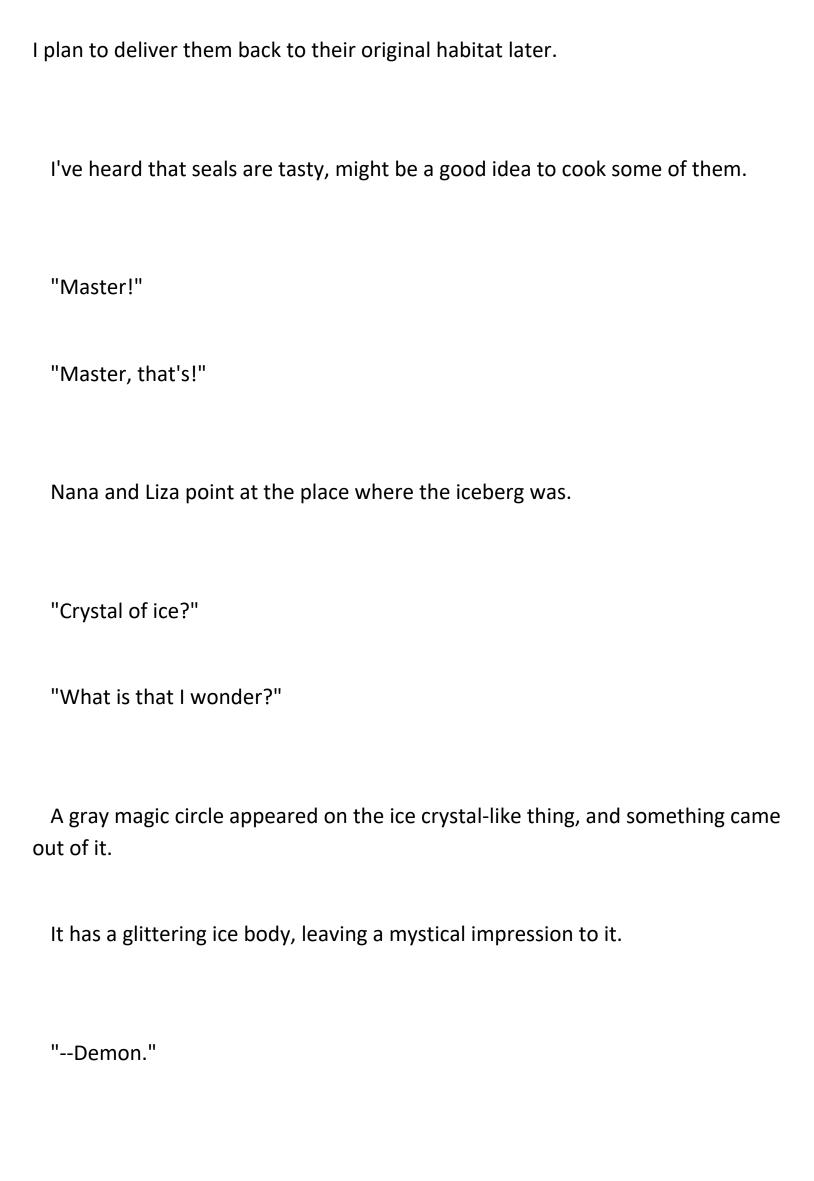
I exchanged promised with the mermaid little girl while also teaching her how to make a promise by linking little fingers.











"Looks to be a mid one."
Just as the girls perceived, the thing that came out of the ice magic circle is a level 47 mid demon.
I thought the iceberg was drifting from some far away land, but apparently a demon was really behind it just like the mermaid little girl said.
[HYOOOOOO, my magical island of ice has disappeared hyou.]
Oy.
That ending word ruins its mystical looks.
"Master."
I nod to Liza who asked me.
Liza points her spear toward the demon, and quietly shoots out a highly compressed magic edge cannon.
[Hyoooooo]



 \Diamond

☐--You killed the demon, and got rid of the iceberg?

[Un, that's right.]

I visited the mermaid little girl's settlemenet as Hero Nanashi after getting rid of the iceberg and the demon.

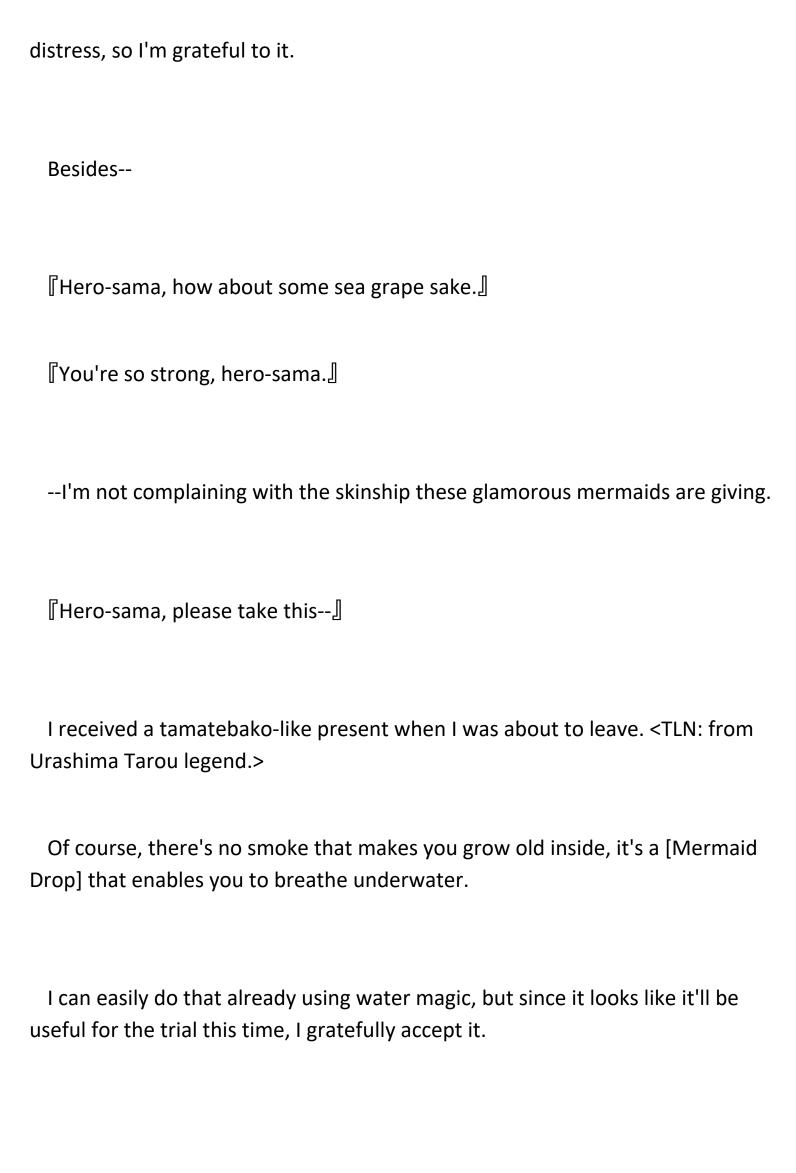
[And I've warmed up the sea temp too, you can go back to your hometown soon~]

Maybe because it's been awhile since I turned into Hero Nanashi, I talked in Nanashi cheerful version and ended up keeping the tone up.

Once the elder told the news to the entire villagers, they happily jumped about over the sea surface.

After enjoying the villagers' dance who somehow look similar to dolphins', I'll be participating in the party the elder sponsored.

The dishes served in the party can't be said to be luxurious by any standard, however, it's undoubtedly a feast for the mermaids who have been living in



Now then, I've got to check if there is any discord within the union and whether that Skeleton Archduke dude is really trying to rally pirates together.

I should also procure war forces I could command in the meantime, maybe?

16-28. Garleon Union (4)

Satou here. I wonder when did wars begin to mainly turn into information wars?

I guess it's only natural, there's no point in amassing weapons without a battlefield, and using a weapon that has a good compatibility against your enemy is the practically same as having forces many times over.

 \Diamond

[--Do you mean for me to betray Garleon Union?]

[Hahaha, not at all. The thought of tempting your majesty to violate the union charter never even crossed our mind.]

Some quite a timely conversation reached my ear.

On my way back from the mermaid village, I discovered one place that was

holding this scene while I was using space magic [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhears] to investigate if there was any discord in Garleon Union.

Though maybe it's only obvious since I chose a place with the most suspicious individuals around.

A highly nervous gentleman overflowing with small fry aura and an avaricious-looking nobleman continued their talk in the spectacle shown by my [Clairvoyance].

The nobleman is the second rank of Garleon Union, Gaboz king who's supposed to be wanting to take the leader position.

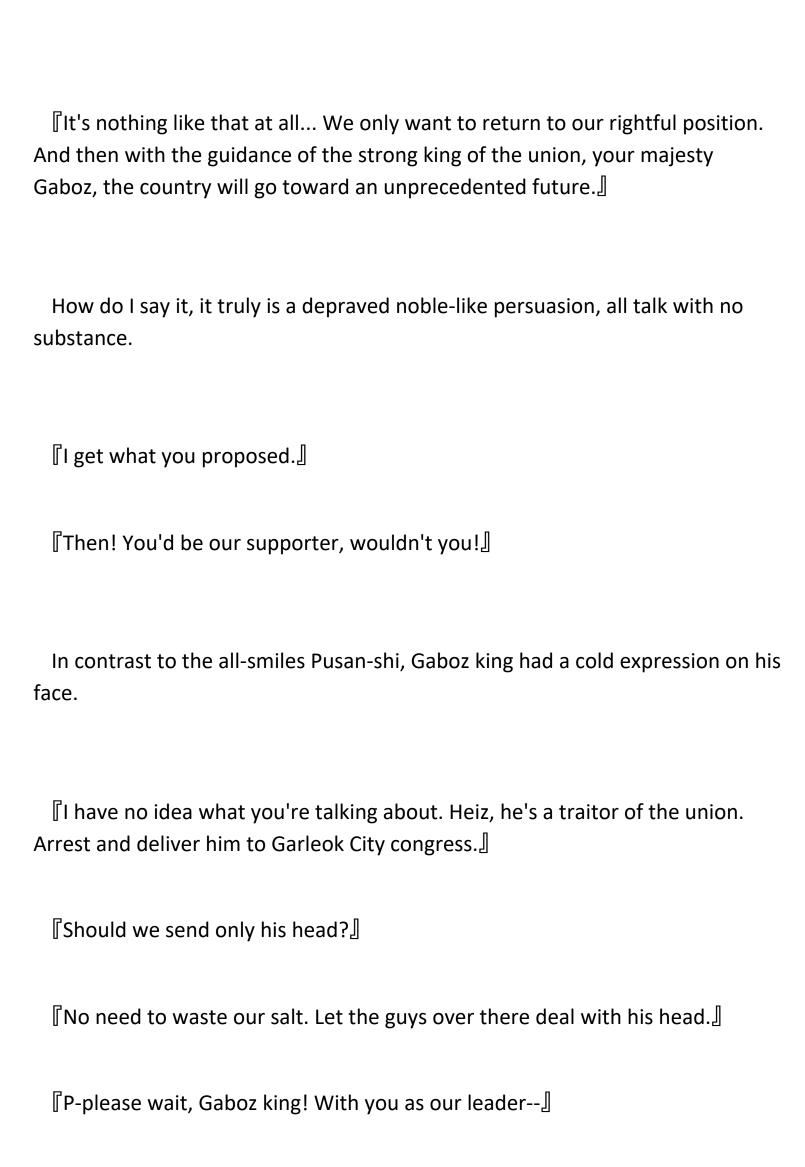
King of Gaboz, it has always been on our mind, a kingdom ought to be ruled by a king.

In other words, you want to return Garleok City that was once turned into a democracy by the hero? Pusan Garleok?

I see, the nervous gentleman, Pusan-shi is a descendant of the former Garleok royalty huh.

Looks like he's also an underling of the [Skeleton Archduke].

Map information is hell of a cheat as always.



	The guards took away Pusan-shi who was still trying to convince the king.
	[Fool who wasn't even worth a clown wasting my timegive me the report.]
	[Yes. The spy that we sent to Skeleton Archduke has fallen on their hands.]
	The king snorted displeasedly to hear the head page's report.
	[However, the [Pigeon of Blessing] the spy carried has brought back news.]
	[Hou, just what you would expect from a [Sage Tower]-made magic tool.]
	Oh, those terms sure tickle one's heart.
t	If I'm not mistaken, Sage Tower is another name for the city where the great emple of God Karion resides.
	I'm looking forward to visiting it already.
	[And, what does it say?]

[Yes, the Skeleton Archduke is just a puppet of demons, and the demons intend to attack Garleok City as well as Garleon Main Temple to obtain the [Golden Wheel].]

[Hmmph, the demons' goal is the [God's Ship] huh...]

The [Golden Wheel] that showed up in their conversation is in my Storage, there's no chance of it getting stolen.

[You mentioned puppet of demons. So are they the Wing of Liberty bunch?]

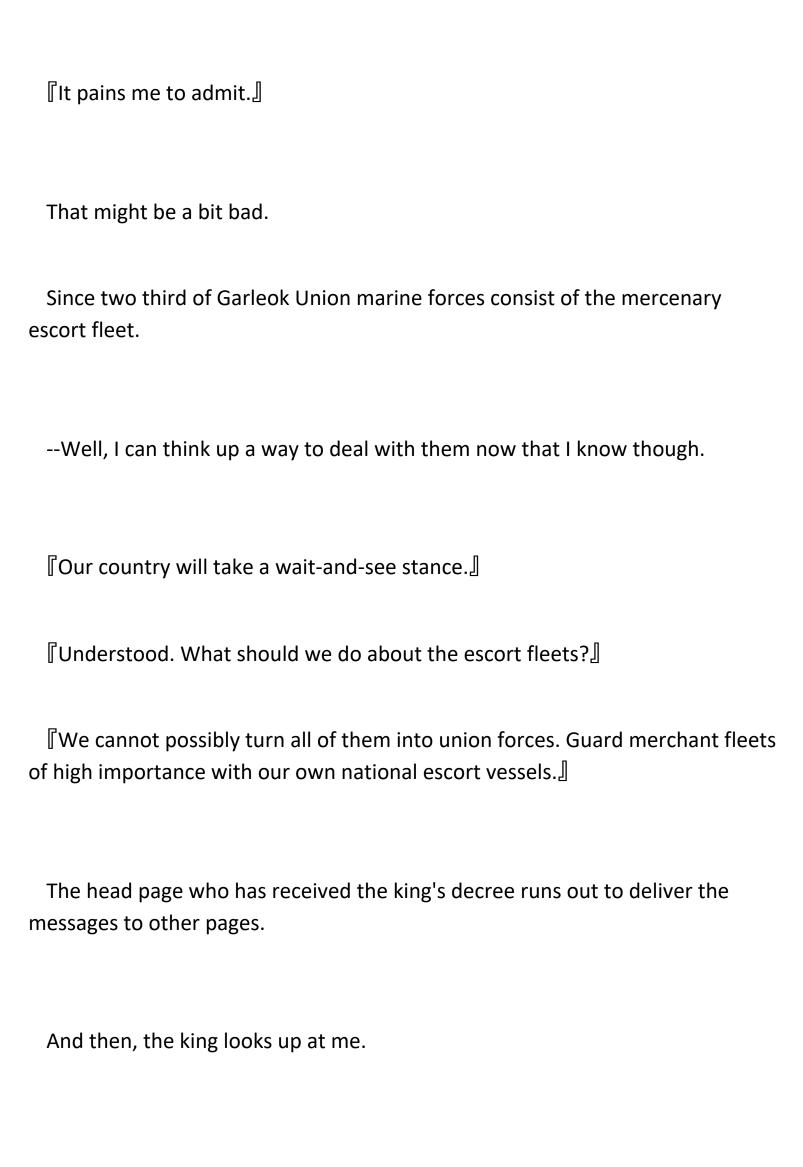
[No, they don't seem to be demon lord believers.]

[Fumu, then we can safely assume that those guys won't play a part in this, can't we?]

The head page slowly shook his head before continuing on.

[We still do not know for sure, but there is a high chance that they have slipped in among the mercenaries hired as escort fleets.]

Then, the escort fleets might raise a revolt right when the pirates come attacking huh...



☐That's the gist of it. We'll leave the rest to you, break a leg. ☐
Looks like he noticed that I was peeking through space magic.
Well, he's still a king who rules over a City Core regardless of how petty.
He apparently thought that a magician of Garleok city was the one doing the peeking, not me though.
"What's the matter?"
"It seems like Gaboz King isn't plotting to raise a rebellion."
I replied to the asking princess Sistina.
It might have just been an act because he noticed me looking though.
Afterward, I tried investigating other cities too, but all of them were just being gray, none plotted to betray the union by making use of pirates.
I personally thought that there would be at least one traitor among them, it was a bit unexpected.

 \Diamond

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

[Your excellency archduke~ your acting earlier was splendid nano.]

A female pirate with heavy make-up talked to a lanky nobleman-looking pirate.

The latter is the Skeleton Archduke, a male human with a skeleton-like face--no, with a skeleton mask worn on his face.

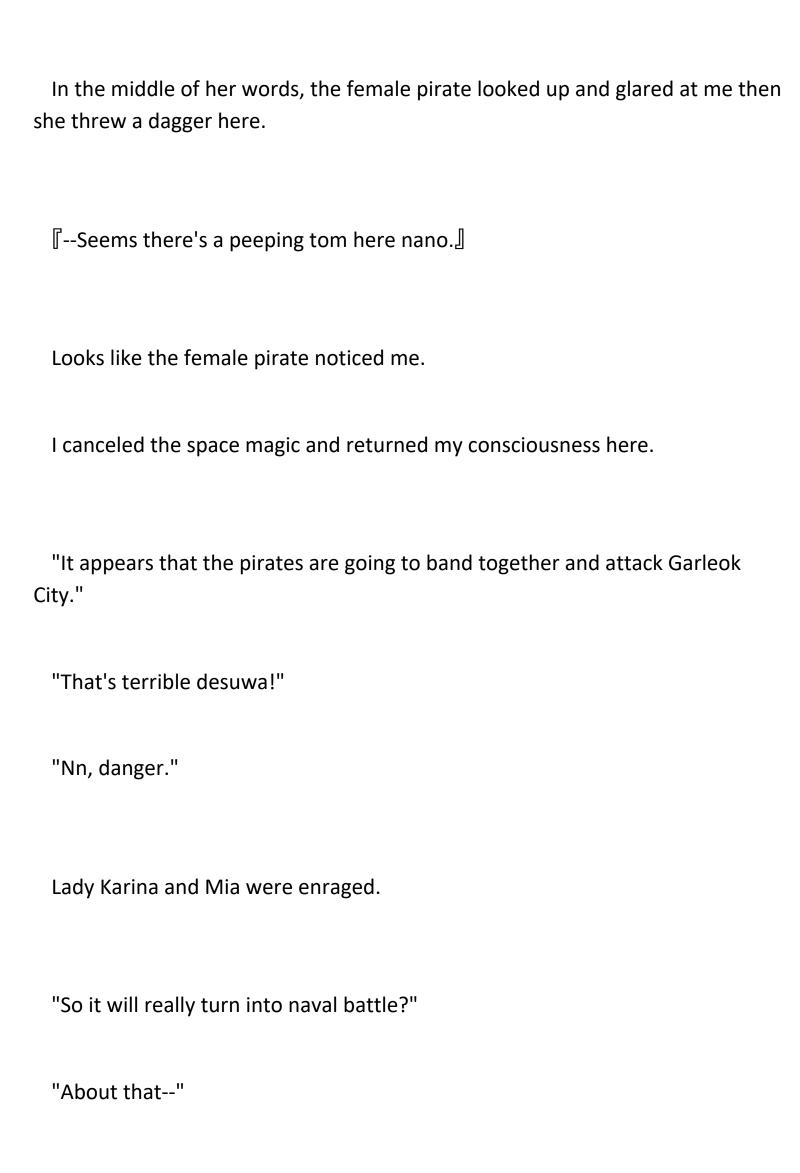
Now the pirate union has been successfully formed, and Garleok City will be destroyed just like your excellency's wish nano.

[U-un. But, was that really okay?]

The voluptuous female pirate clings on the timid young man.

Since it doesn't only apply to her chest, but her entire body, I'm not really envious.





I told them about the information I got from space magic.

The pirates, or rather, the demons manipulating the pirates are probably going to control monsters to do destructive acts.

"Don't tell me, the woman manipulating the fake Skeleton Archduke is?"

"Yes, she's possessed by a demon."

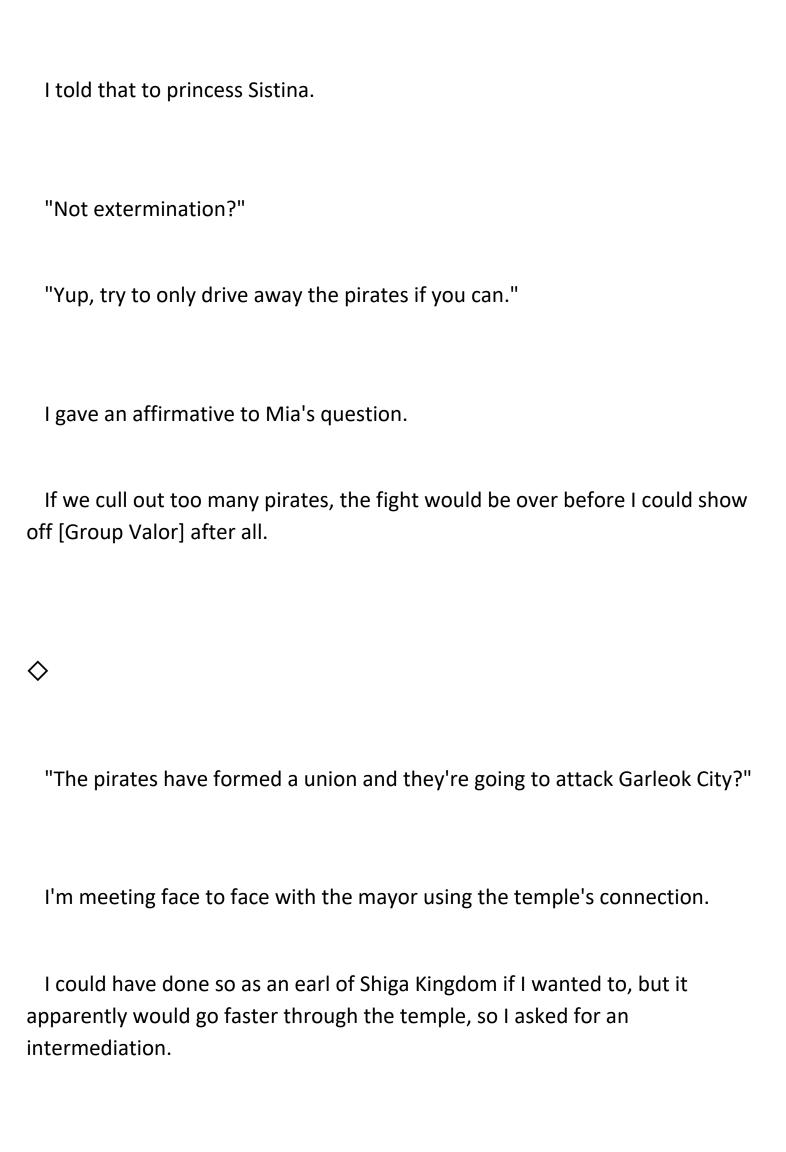
I found no trace of demons when I was checking things back then, but they were suddenly there before I knew it, just like the stuff with iceberg.

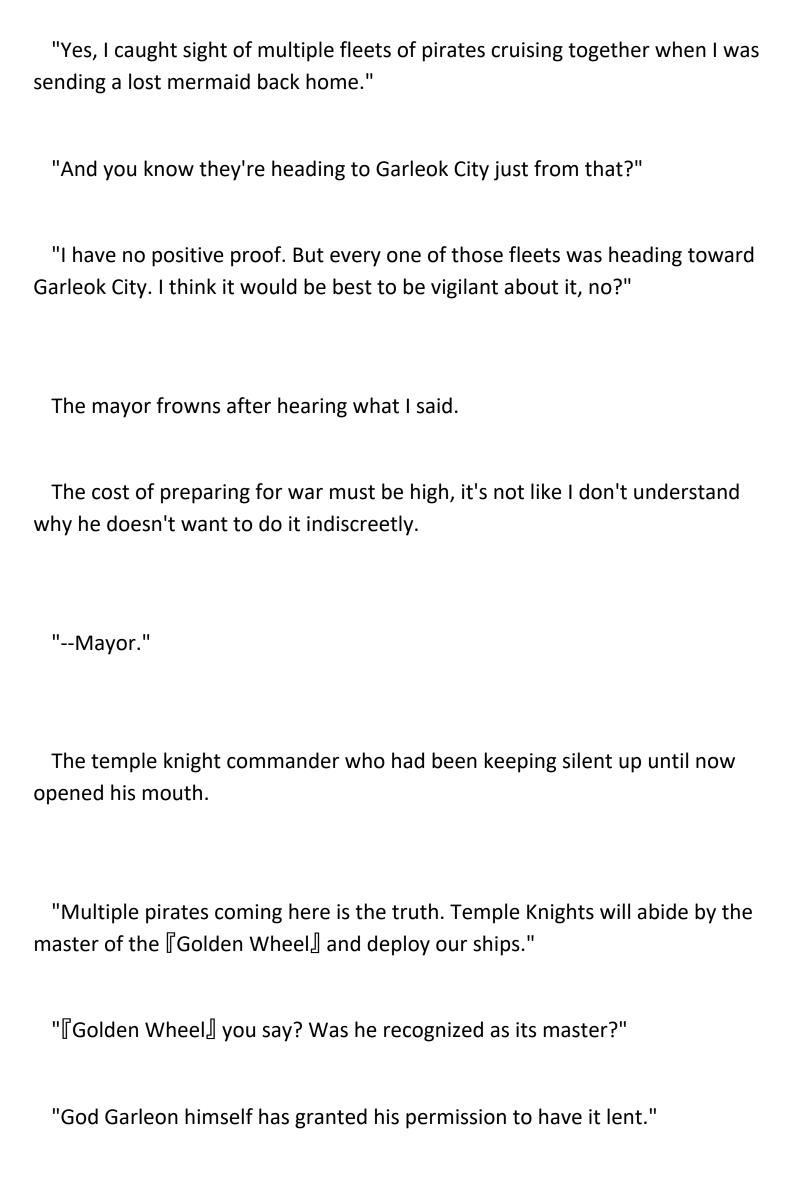
Good grief, you really can't let your guard down.

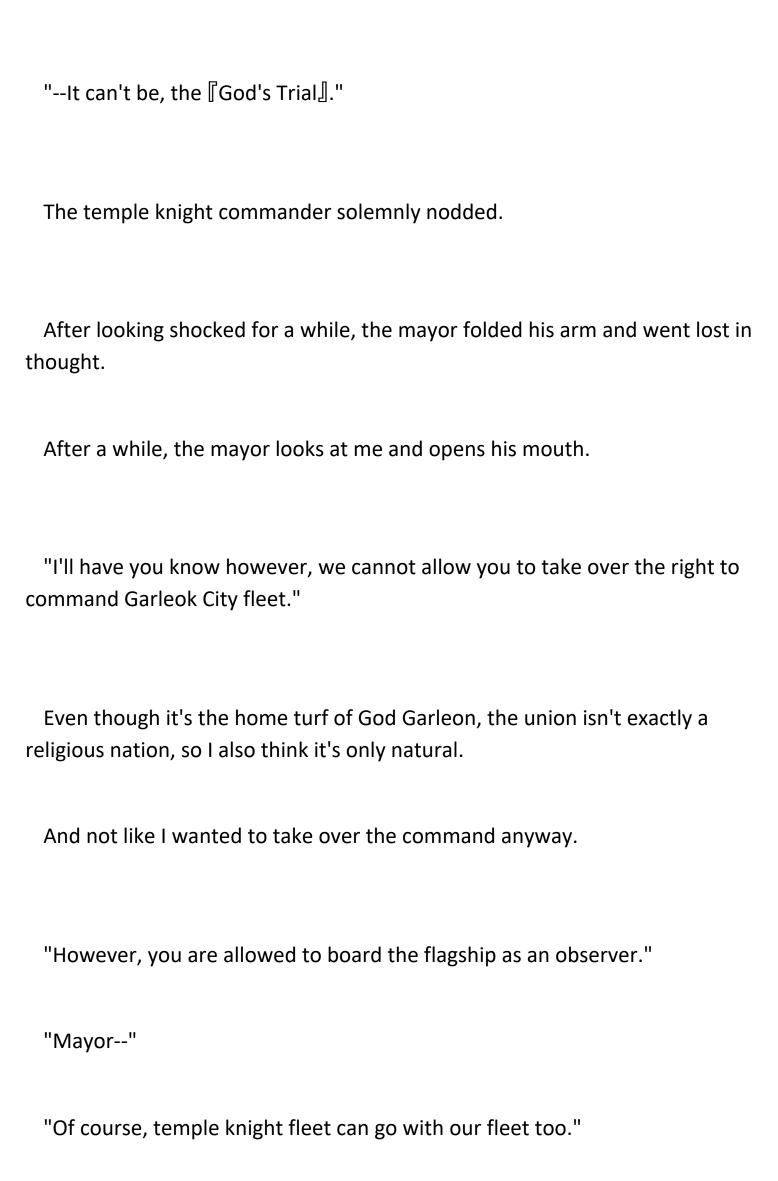
"For now, I'll bring along the temple knight commander to go meet the mayor."

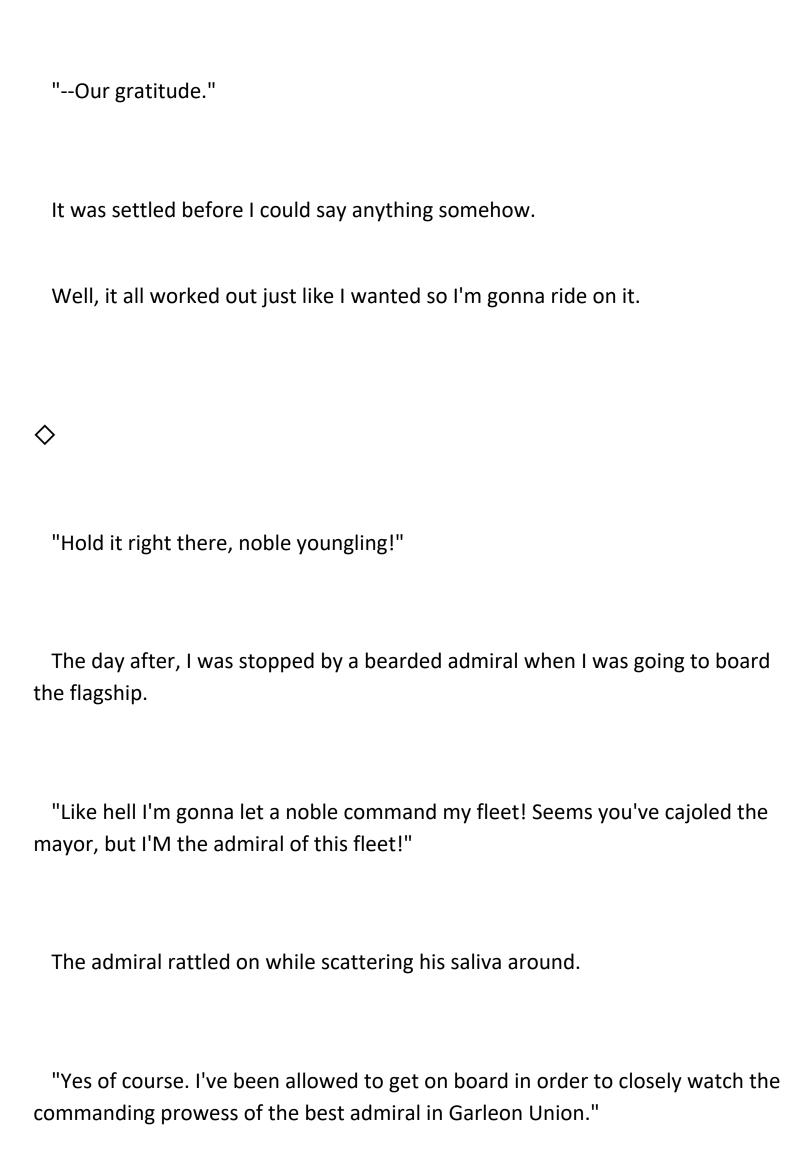
"Should we wait here?"

"No, some pirates that are on their way to congregate at Garleok city are using the opportunity to attack small merchant fleets, I'd like you girls to rescue them."

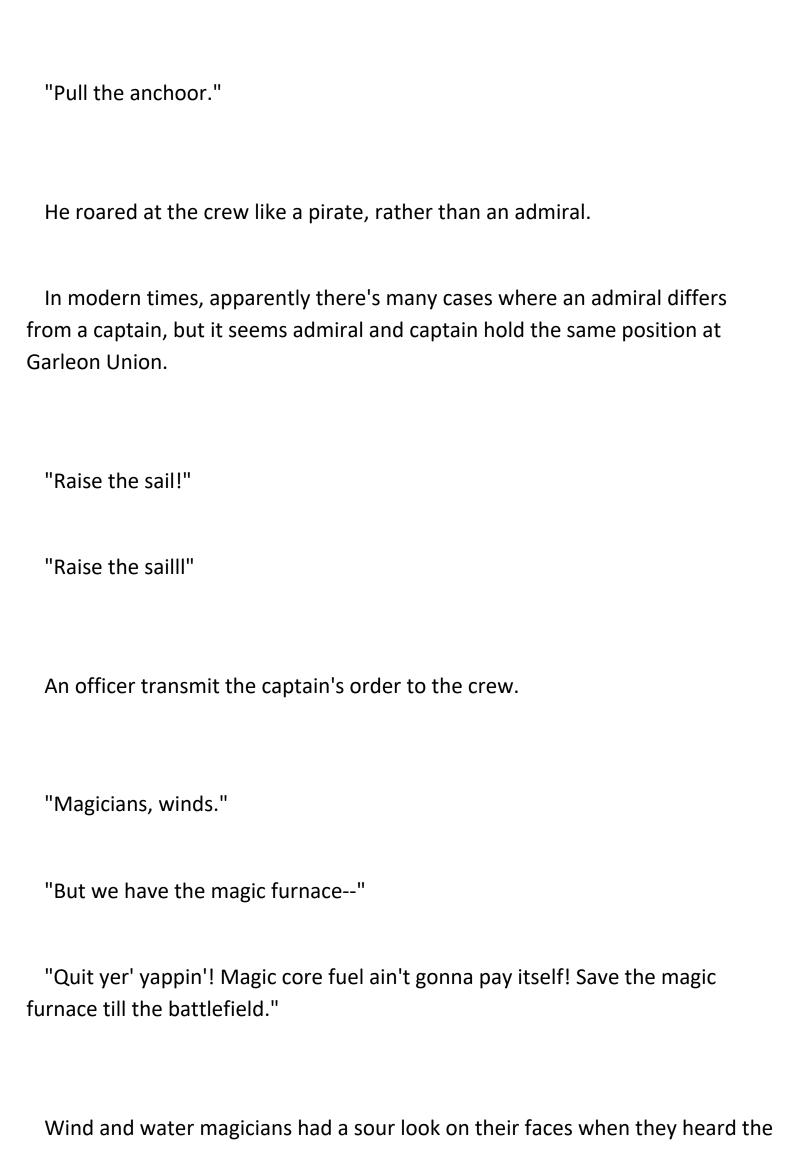












captain, but they obeyed him regardless and used their magic.

From what I gathered with Attentive Ears skill, these magicians are using a magic to gather wind and another to reduce friction on the hull.

The fleet depart at a speed that surpasses an ordinary ship.

That said, it's still way slower compared to an airship.

I should go do something to kill time until we meet the pirate group at their rally point....

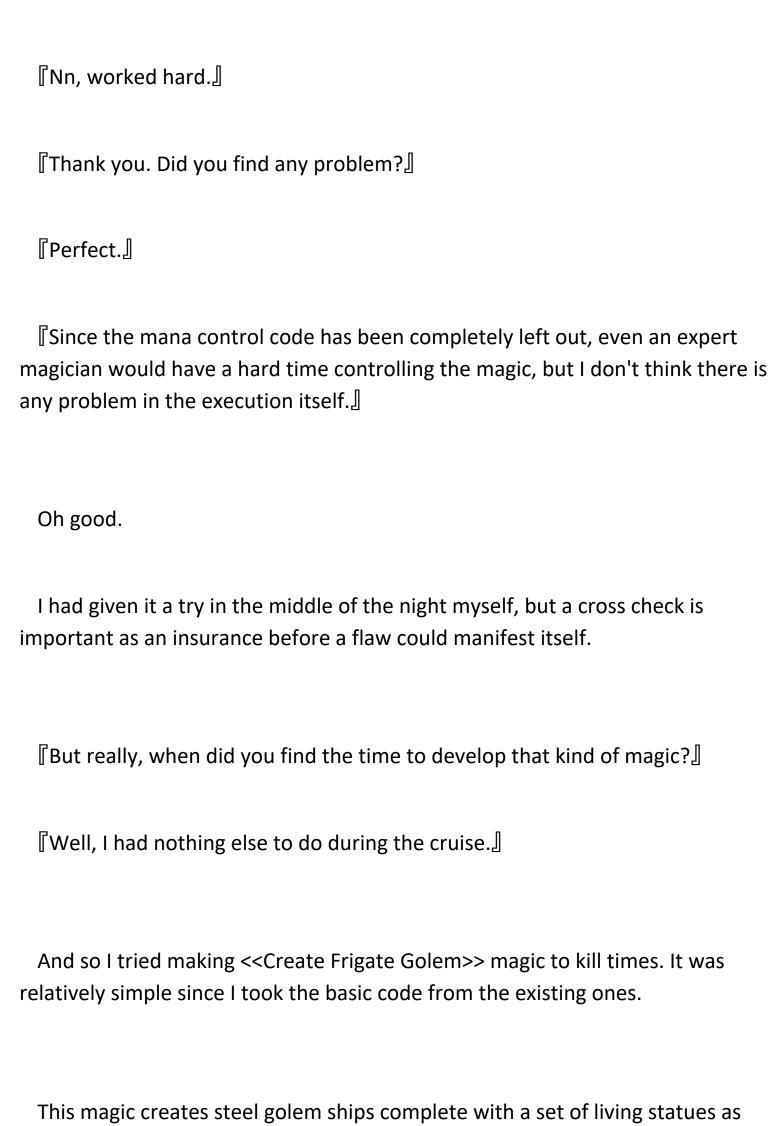
I'm feeling the sea breeze on my body while thinking about that.

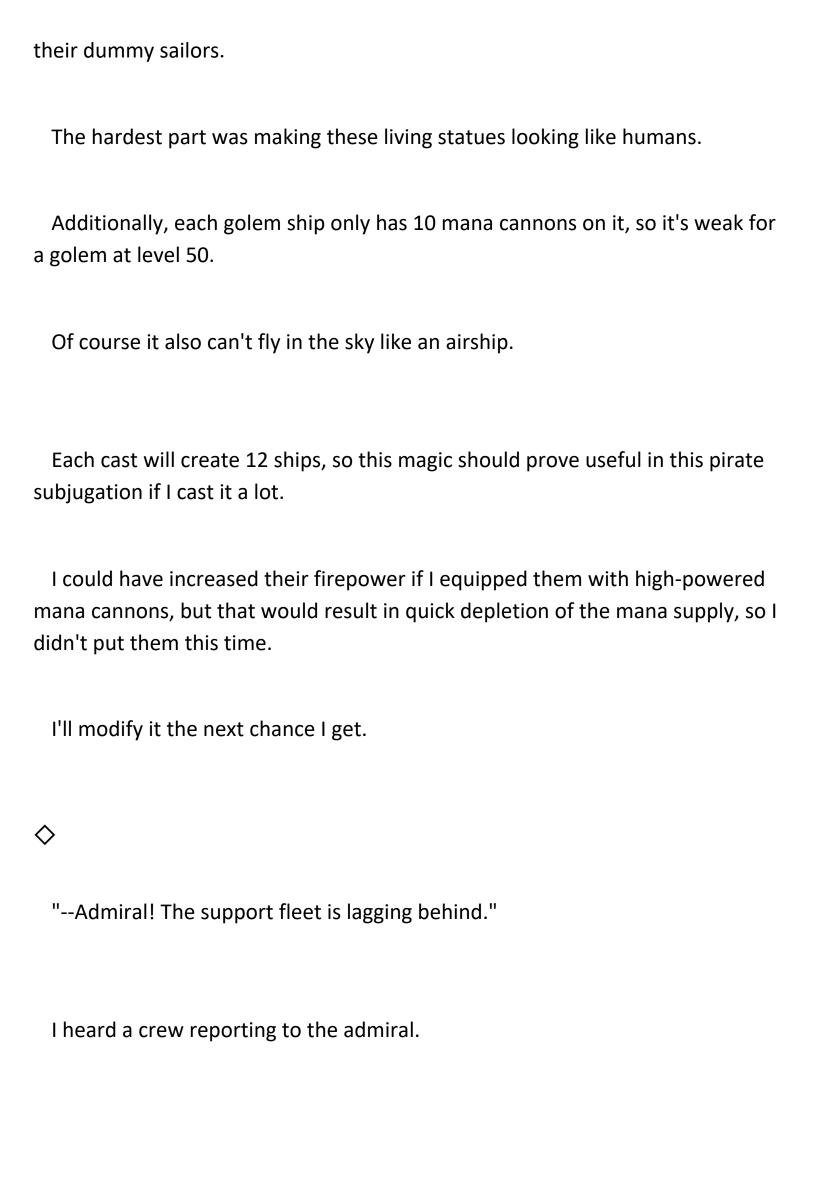
16-29. Garleon Union (5)

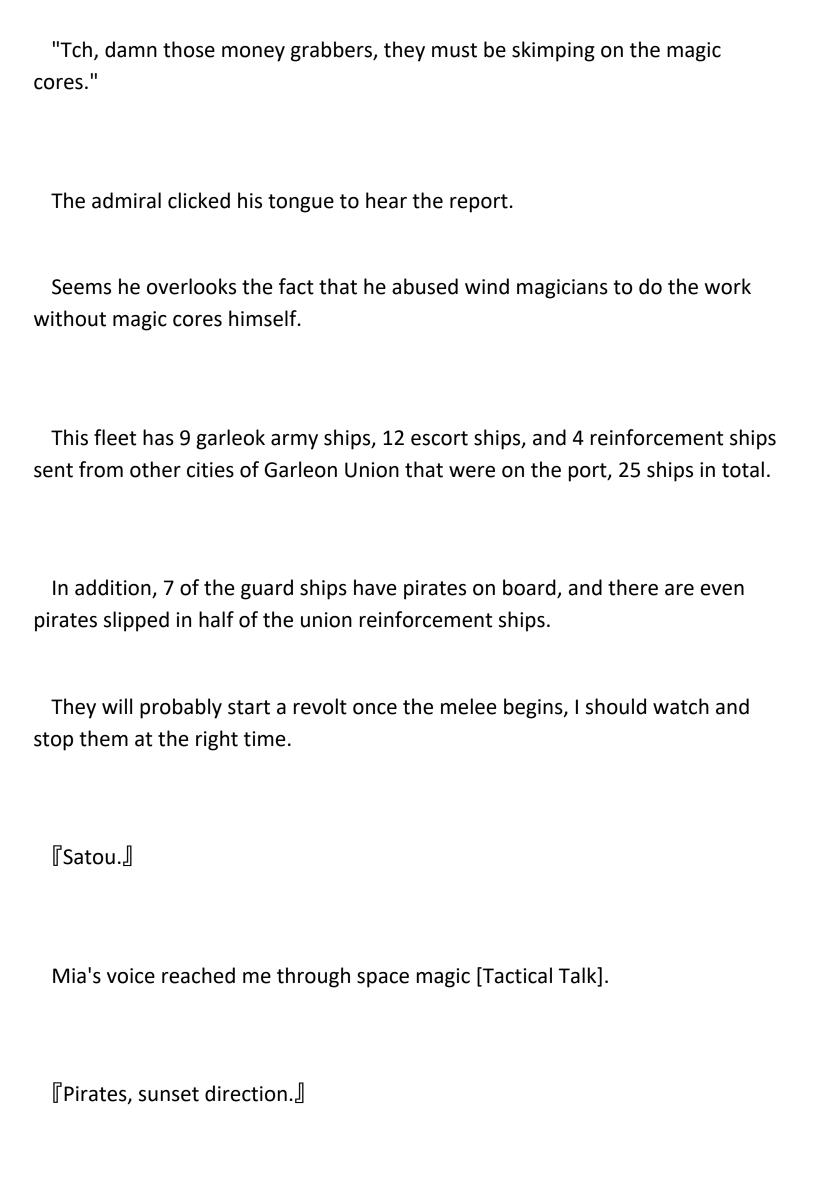
Satou here. I like playing naval battle simulation games and submarine games where it's mainly about searching your enemy. Racking your brain trying to root out the enemy before they could find you is fun, don't you think so.



[Satou, we're done peer reviewing the magic you gave earlier.]

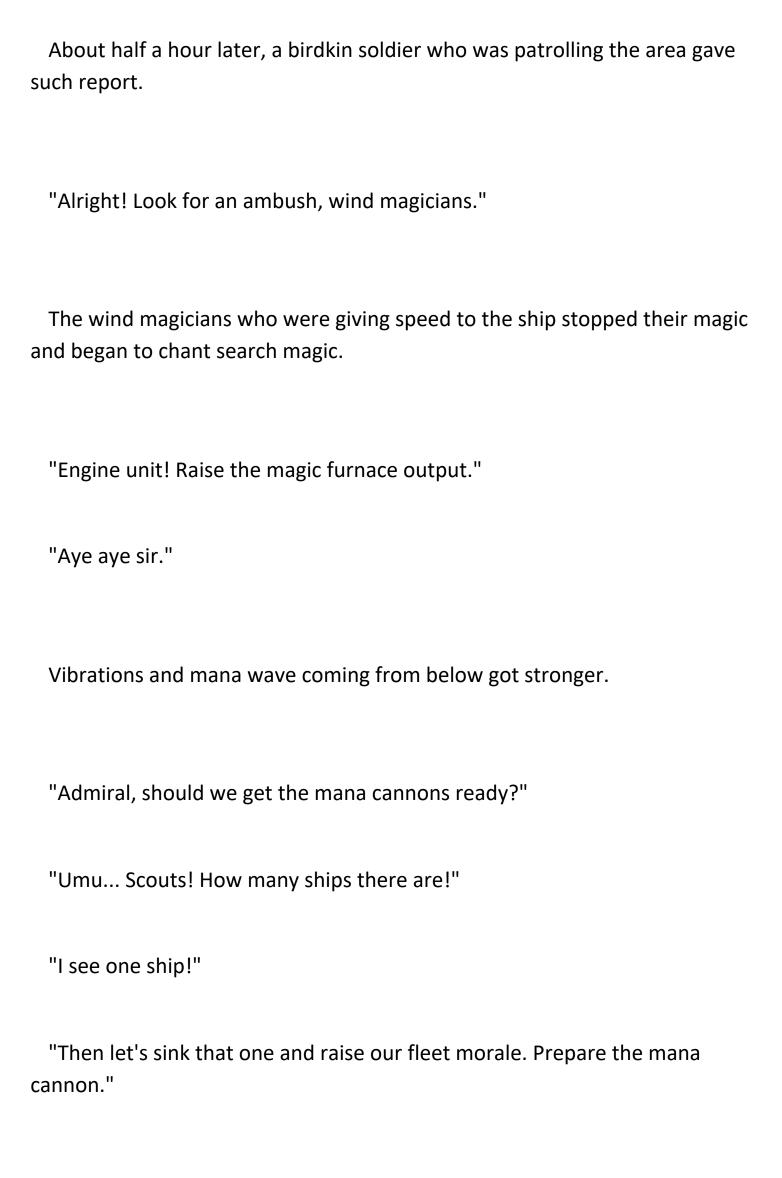


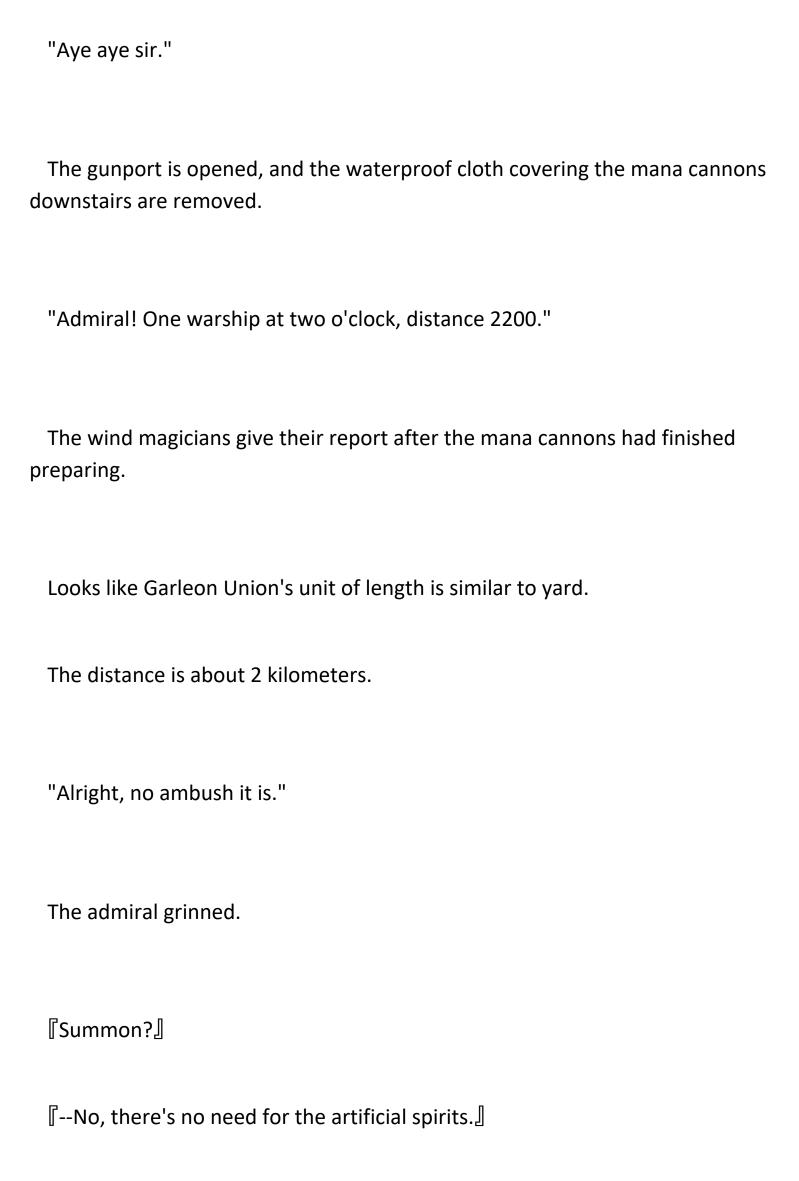


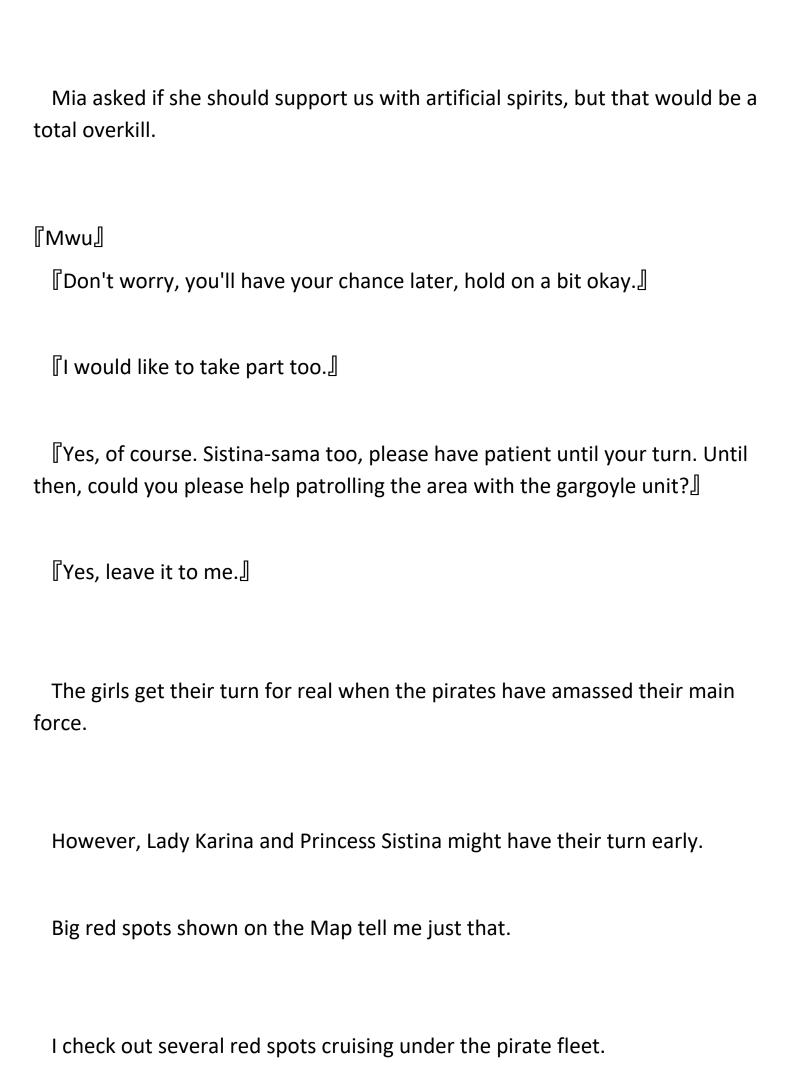


[Thank you, Mia.] Looks like the airship patrolling in the sky has caught a sight of the pirates. Almost at the same time, a flashlight installed under the airship for communication also flashed, informing me the same thing. It's a secret that the data from the light signals is more abundant than Mia's words. [Intercept?] [No, let's observe them, I'd like to know the capability of this subjugation force. From what the Map shows me, there's no ship getting attacked by pirates, so it should be fine. "Admiral! Warship sighted at two o'clock! They don't have a national flag on

them."







Their identity are that of Torpedo Squids and a Squid Kraken.

There are 20 of the former averaging at level 12, and the latter consists of only one at level 45.

No wait, there's around 30 Sea Orcs whose levels are at single digit following them too.

Every one of the monsters have this unusual state of [Subordination].

It's probably a type of Tame.

These monsters are advancing under water, so wind magic search cannot find them.

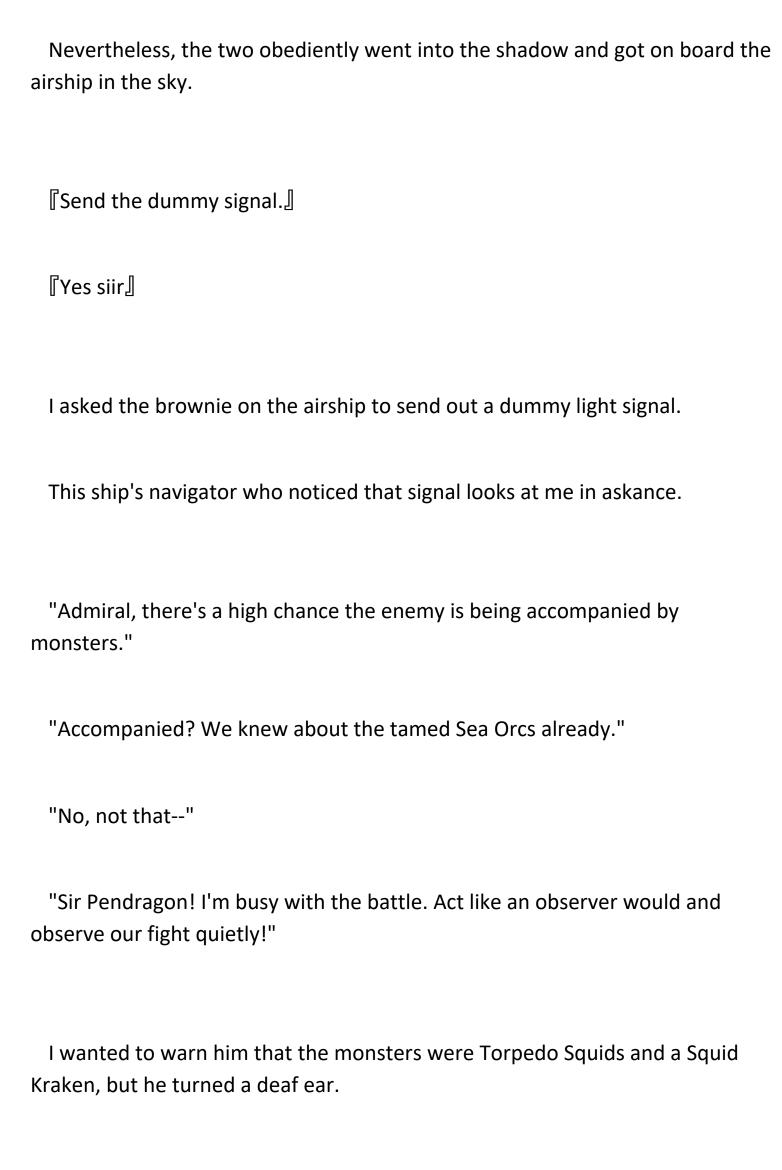
At a glance, the captain who didn't search underwater with water magic might seem incompetent, but I can understand why he's hesitant to largely deplete the fleet mana to do that.

Even though there are pirates accompanied by seaborne demi-human, their war force cannot be compared to one pirate warship.

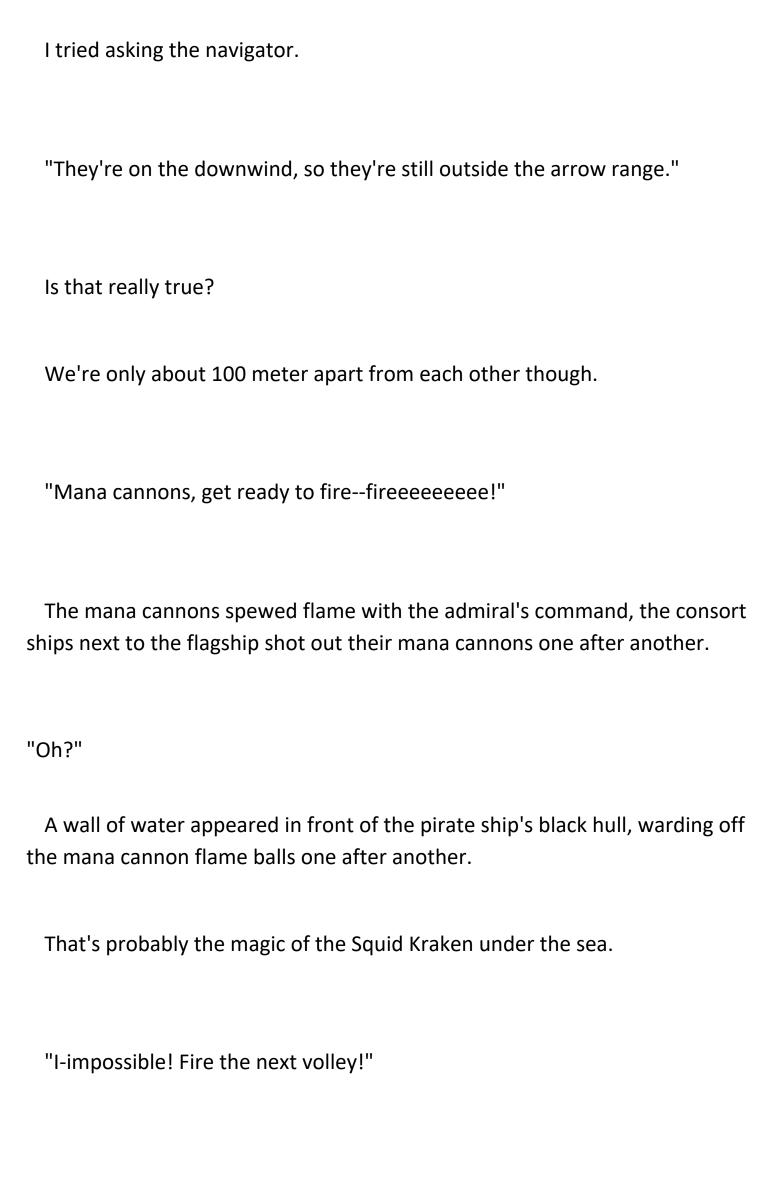
In addition, about 10-20 kilometer behind that pirate ship, the pirate main force is gradually amassing, it seems like the wind magic earlier couldn't pick them up.

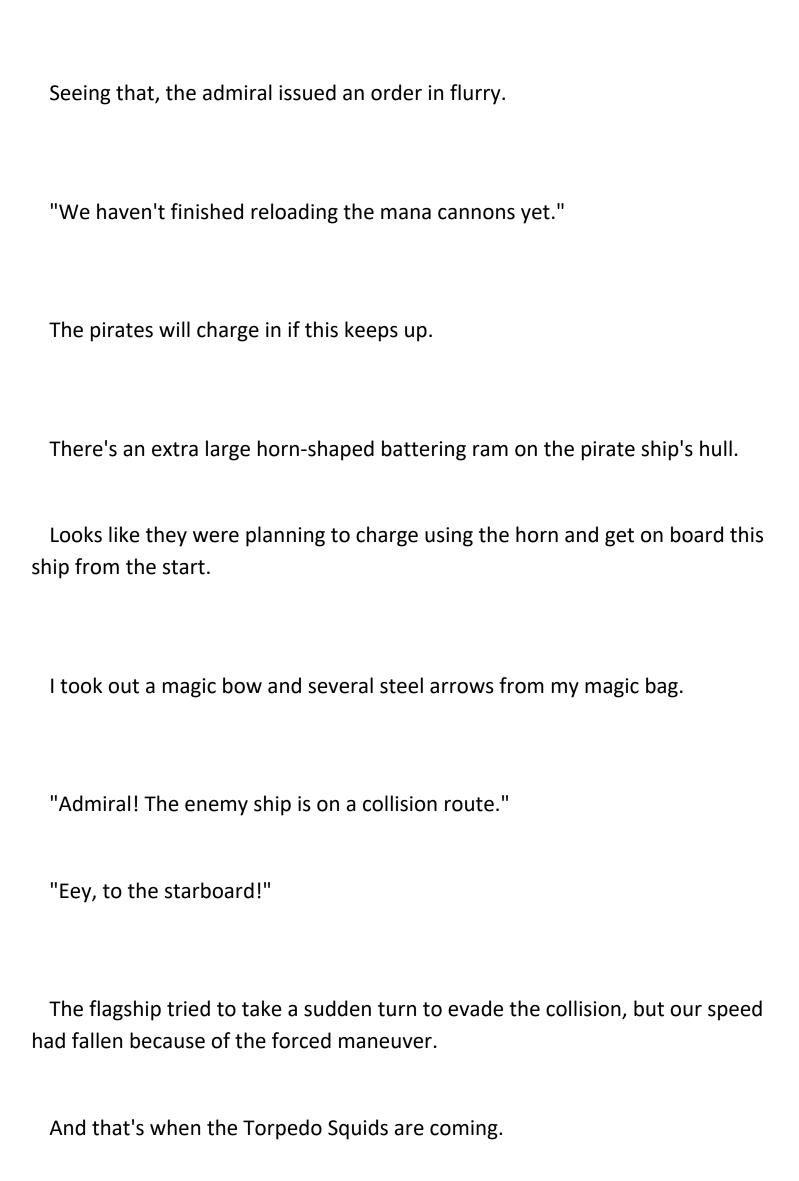
They also have several Squid Krakens coming with them, so Mia and Princess Sistina will have plenty of chance.
"Warship in sight!"
The pirate ship came into sight on the horizon before long.
"Black pirate ship?"
"Oy! Look at that pirate's flag!"
"Skull coiled by sea snakesIt's the Skeleton Archduke's ship!"
According to the Map, Skeleton Archduke isn't on that ship.
They probably let their subordinates hoist the flag to cause confusion and to act as a warning.



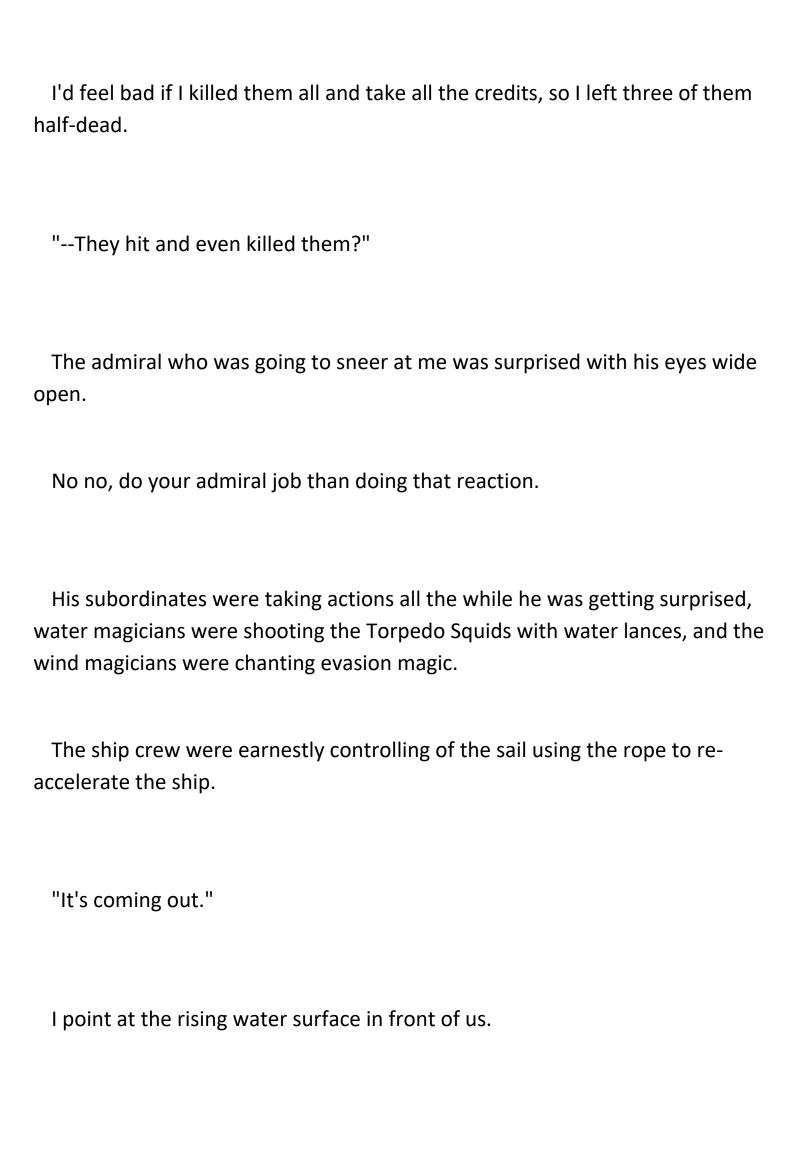


The fleet will suffer serious damage if this keeps up, I should drop down Karina Bomb the moment Squid Kraken shows itself to prevent that. As for the Torpedo Squids, well, considering we have 25 warships, they should manage somehow. [Karina-sama, it's about time for you to show up--] I talked to Lady Karina in the sky above to ease her boredom. "Those bunch are heading straight to us. Are they getting desperate?" "Hmph, this is all those worthless pirates amount to. Fire the mana cannons all at once when they get within range." The fleet begins to encircle the pirate ship and turns their flanks toward it. "The pirates aren't attacking, are they?"

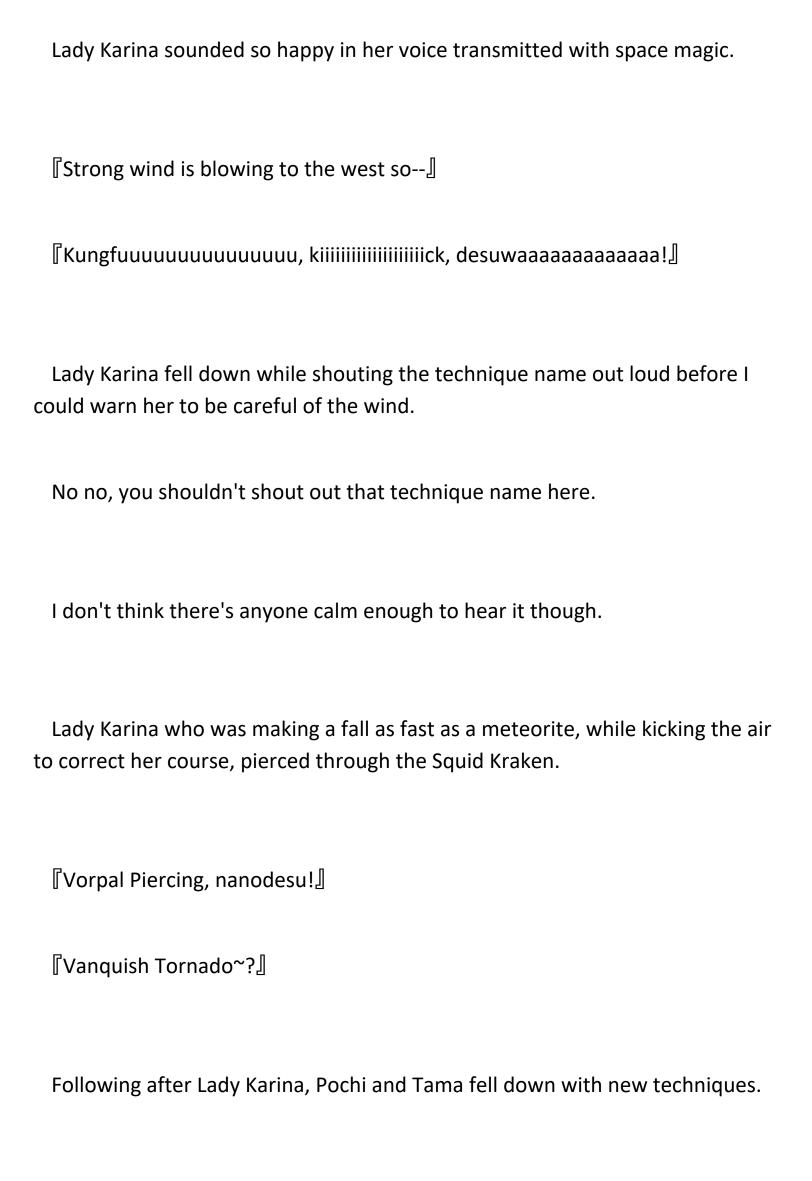


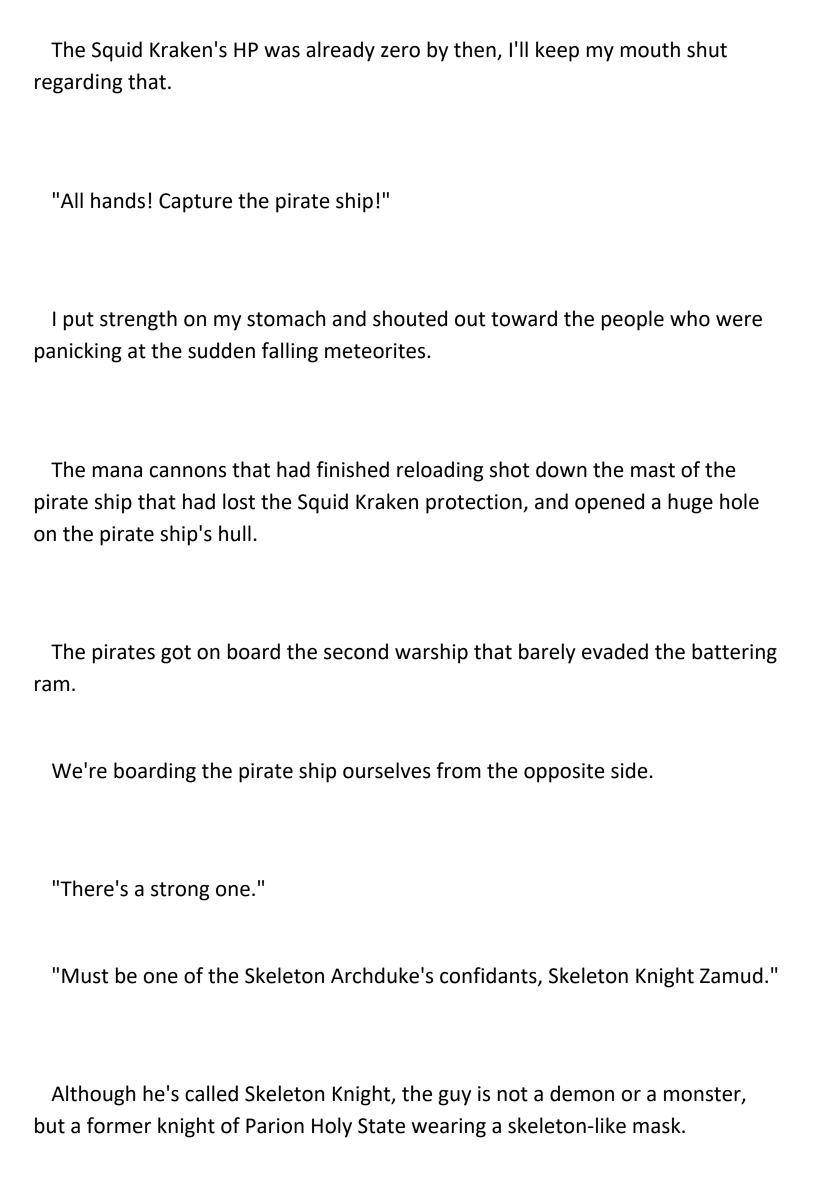


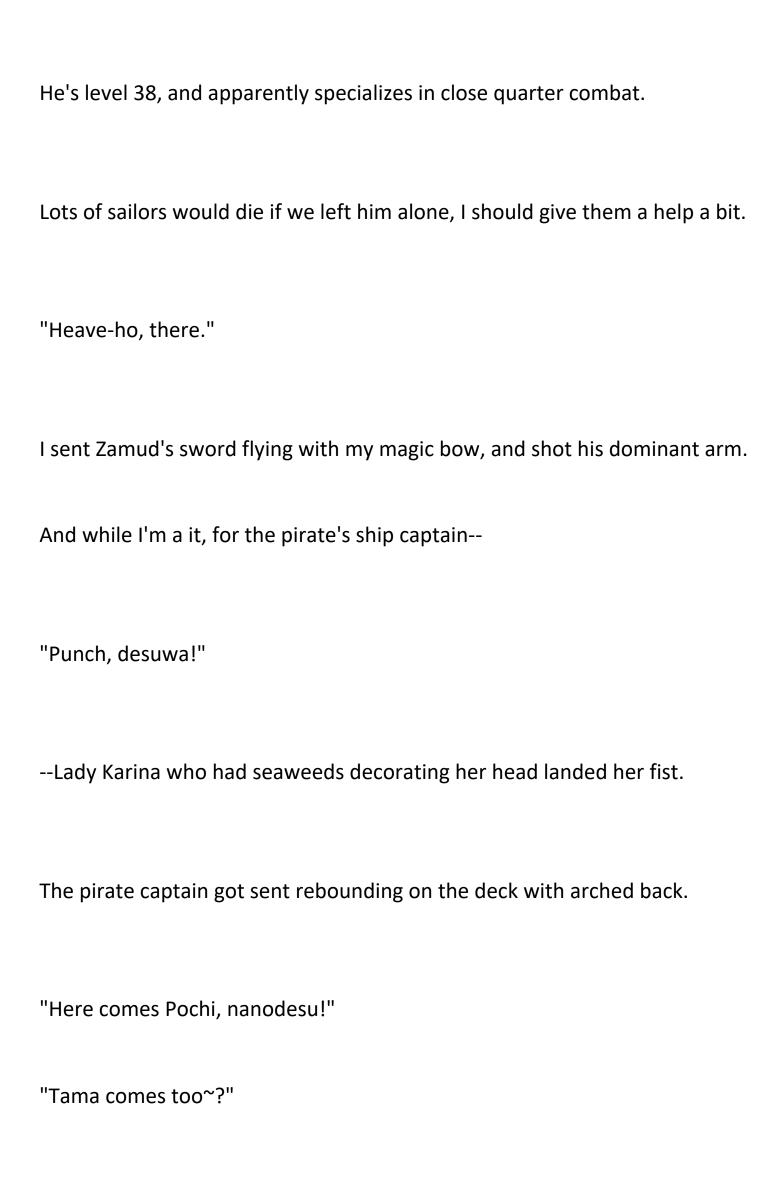




The sea was split and ten tentacles surfaced at first. The tip of those tentacles are adorned with harpoon-like thorned claws, each of the suction pads is larger than a person. "I-it's Kraken!" "R-run away! This ship's gonna sink!" The crew fell into panic when they saw it. Of course that applies not only to the flagship but the entire consort ships. The Squid Kraken hasn't even shown its main body, yet it's already turned into a pandemonium here. And it seems like the admiral and the ship captains that should have been the ones who calm them down are also barely able to keep their composure. [Karina-sama, go on and do it.] [I've been waiting for this!]









Mia's water spirits seem to have captured pirates who were trying to flee.
[Satou, the patrolling gargoyles reported that more than 20 pirate ships have gathered.]
『Thank you very much, Sistina-sama.』
Now then, there is still some time before the enemy main force finished gathering, but there's something I need to do before that.
"Sir Pendragon, I give you my thanks for your assistance, but yer' overstepping your bounds!"
The admiral pressed me on while scattering his saliva around.
This one is more depressing to deal with than the pirates.
62 enemy ships remaining.
They've split into three groups of around 20 ships, each lurking on reefs and islands dominated with complex tides, waiting for our fleet in ambush.

Once this fleet fell for the most conspicuous decoy, they would undoubtedly encircle us.

I have a feeling that that will definitely happen if we leave the command to this admiral.

I'd rather be on the side doing the encirclement than be on the receiving end, thank you.

16-30. Garleon Union (6)

Satou here. It feels like there's only a few chances for intelligences and subversive actions to carry much weight in historical simulation games. I guess it's really because flowers in the battlefield have to be the clashes of troops, after all?



"Lots more people got injured than I expected."

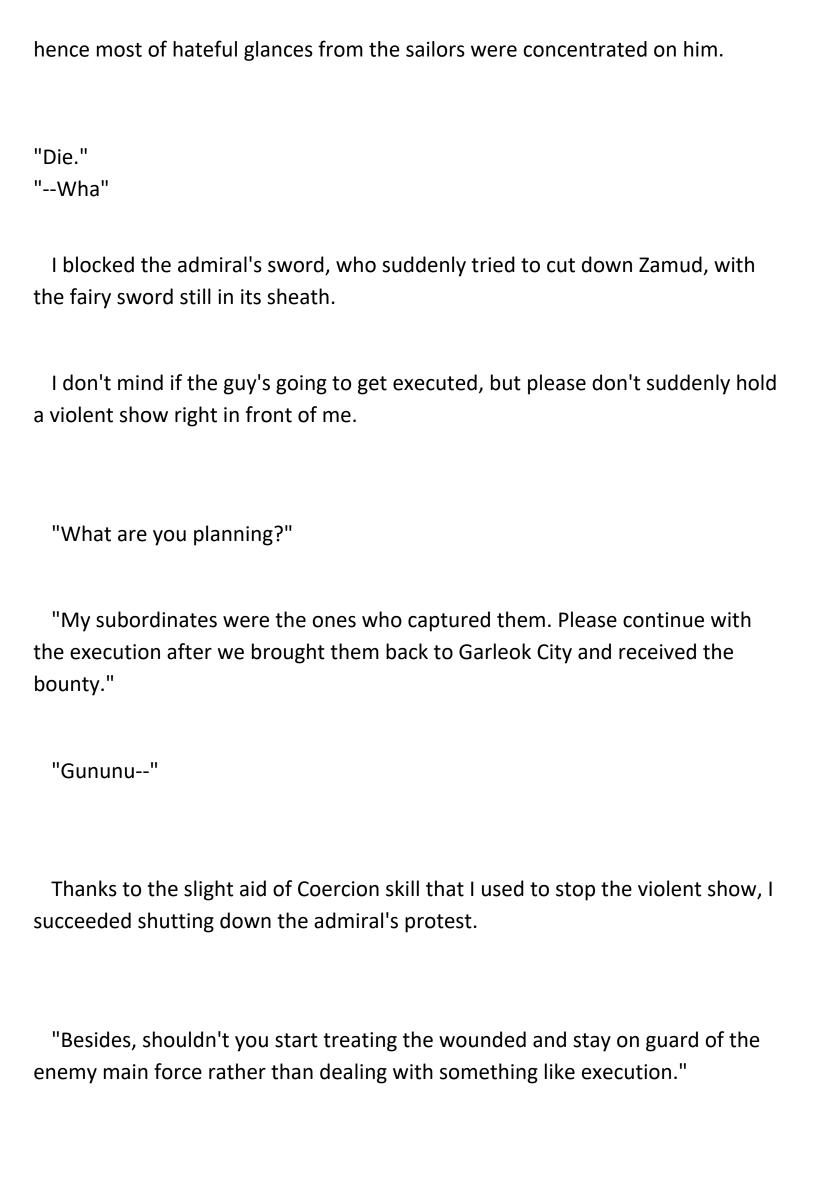
The second warship that suffered an attack from the pirate ship had 4 dead and 17 wounded.

The entire fleet likely would have faced a total destruction had they received the full brunt of the accompanying tamed monsters' attacks we dealt with.

"So, this guy's Zamud..."

The pirate captain and skeleton knight Zamud bound in rope were dragged before the admiral.

The majority of the dead and the wounded were by the hands of Zamud,



"Treatment is already underway--wait, enemy main force?"

"Yes, they only had one ship attacking us was likely to deal serious damage to our fleet with the tamed monsters' surprise attack. Therefore, normally you'd think that the main force will follow after to assault Garleok City, wouldn't you?"

"O-of course! You don't need to tell me such an obvious thing!"

After saying that, the admiral ordered the sailors and wind magicians to search around.

Looks like they're going to use Mana Furnace this time.



"Then, I'll be going to prepare to tow the pirates."

I've gathered all the captured pirates including pirate captain and the skeleton knight on the captured pirate ship to be towed back to Garleok City with our airship.

Of course, I'll be splitting the bounty to the admiral and the pirate subjugation fleet.

I plan to have them sleep along the way with Mia's spirit magic to prevent them from revolting.

That magic cannot be undone without the user's approval or without using force magic's Magic Break, quite convenient for transporting criminals.

"Hmph, going out of your way for mere pirates..."

The admiral seems dissatisfied, but he's already agreed to it, thus I thoroughly ignore him.

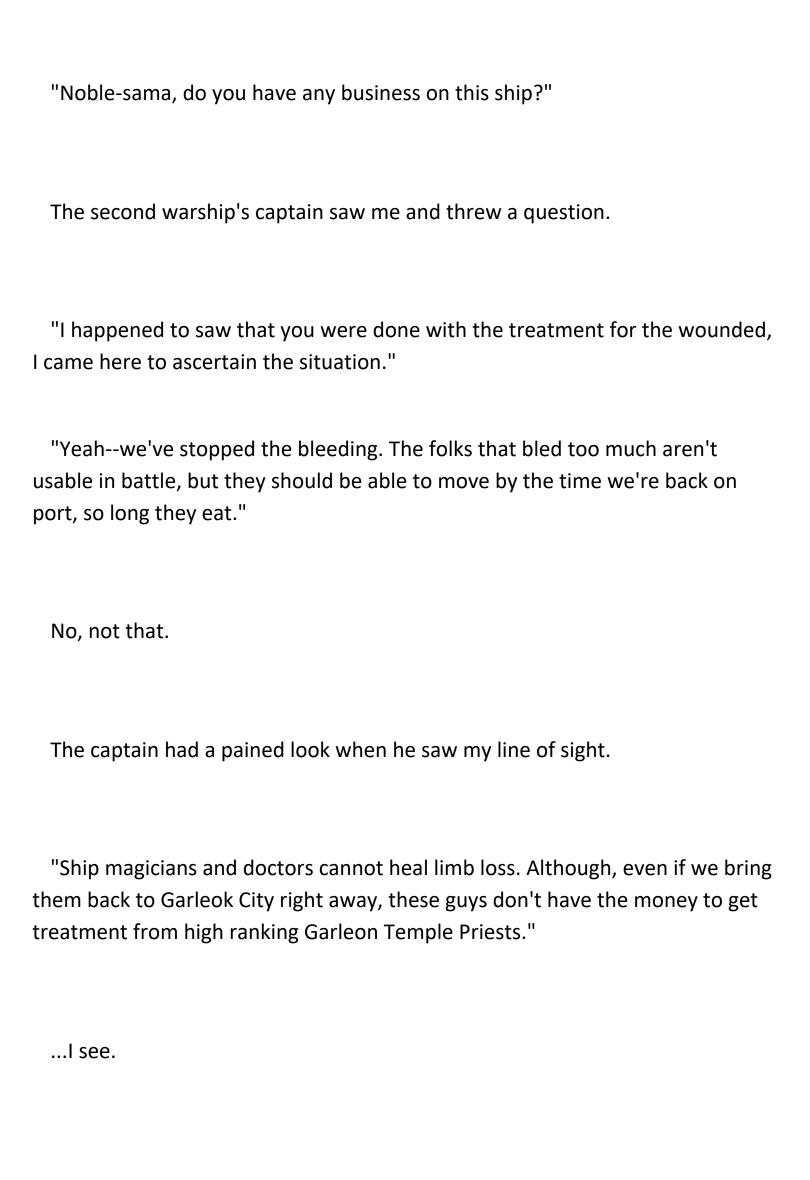
--Hm?

"Admiral, it seems they're still treating the wounded on the second ship?"

"That's good enough. Go fix 'em yourself if yer' so curious."

The admiral who had an irritated look on his face waved his hand like he's shooing away a dog.

Well, since I've gotten the permission, I'll put on the Flight Shoes and get to the next ship.



You need expensive high magic potion or elixirs to heal limb loss.

Restoring lost limbs and internal organs with advanced holy magic or spirit magic is possible, but common advanced magic can only restore endpoint parts like fingers and such.

Though it's possible to heal it with even mid level magic or potion as long as it hasn't been long since the limb has been cut and the cut limb remains.

"Then, do you mind if I take care of it?"

"We'd be very glad to... But, will your excellency himself do it?"

"No, one of my companions is an expert of water magic, you see."

I looked up at the flying airship in the sky as I said that.

"We can't offer much as a reward, but if you could, would you please heal them?"

"Of course, that is if you permit those girls to board this ship."

The captain hesitated only for an instant, and immediately gave his





Now that we're done with the treatment on this ship, let's ask Mia and the others to pretend transporting the pirate ship with our airship.

We wouldn't make it in time for the clash with the enemy main force if we were to bring them back to Garleok City, so I'm just going to let the pirate ship float on a sea of a sub-dimension I create.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Admiral! We caught wind of what appeared to be ship silhouettes, at two o'clock, distance 9000. Their number is around 8 to 10."

Three wind magicians who worked together to search the area gave their findings.

From what I gathered on the map, there should be three groups with 20 ships each--but looking again, two of the 20 ship fleets are moving to encircle us from afar, and in the fleet that the wind magicians found, every two ships are connected by rope. It's probably to disguise them as one ship.

"9000 at two o'clock, that's around Seaweed Archipelago huh... That's troublesome."

The admiral muttered loathfully as he looked at the sea chart.

According to my Map info, Seaweed Archipelago is a perilous place where lots of reef and seaweed type monsters lurk around.

Add to the fact that there's a lot of small islands that can act as the pirate hiding spots.

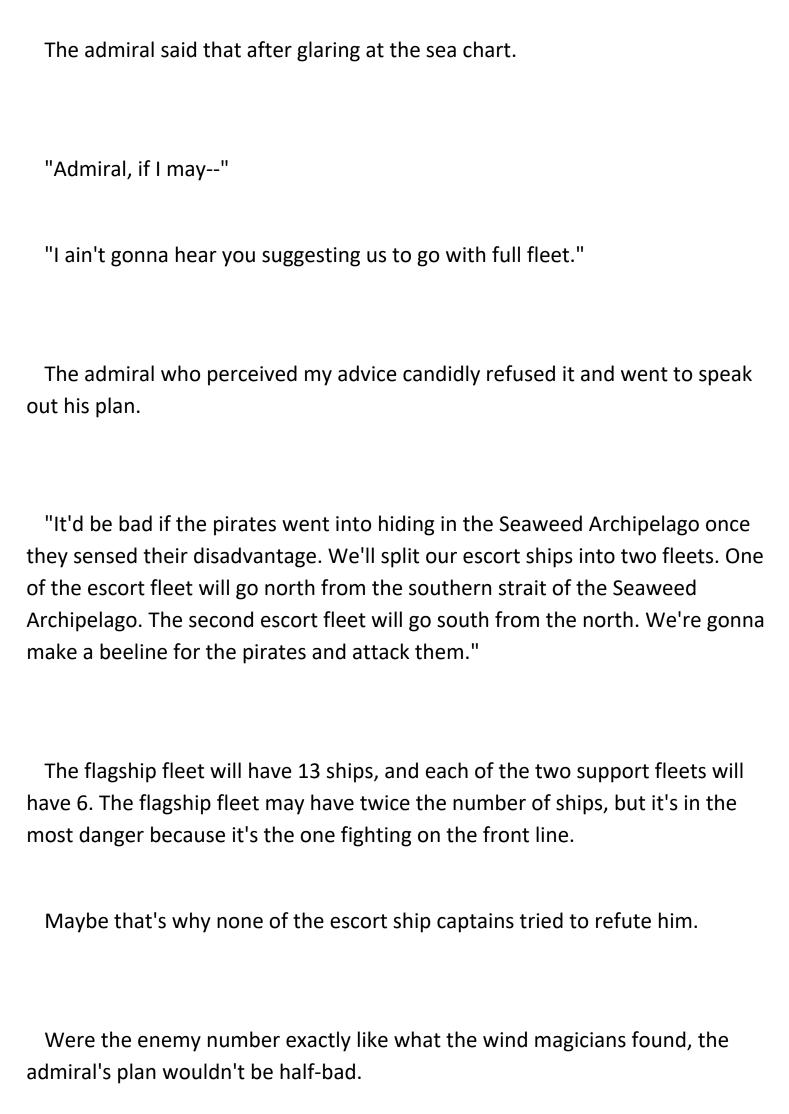
In fact, pirate-looking men along with small ships are lurking on several of those islands.

"Wait a bit and use the search magic once again. Find out their direction and speed. Comm officer, tell every ship to let half of the ship take a rest and have a light meal."

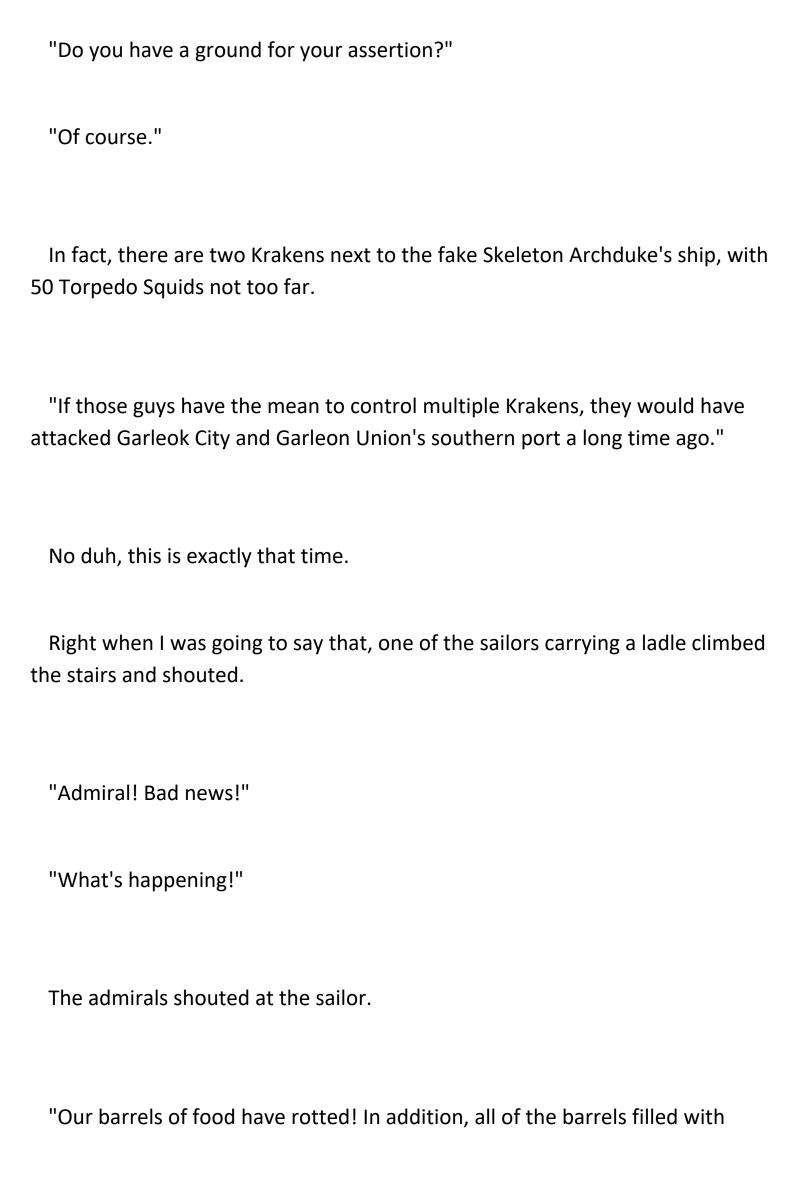
After giving orders, the admiral gathered each captains of the warships.

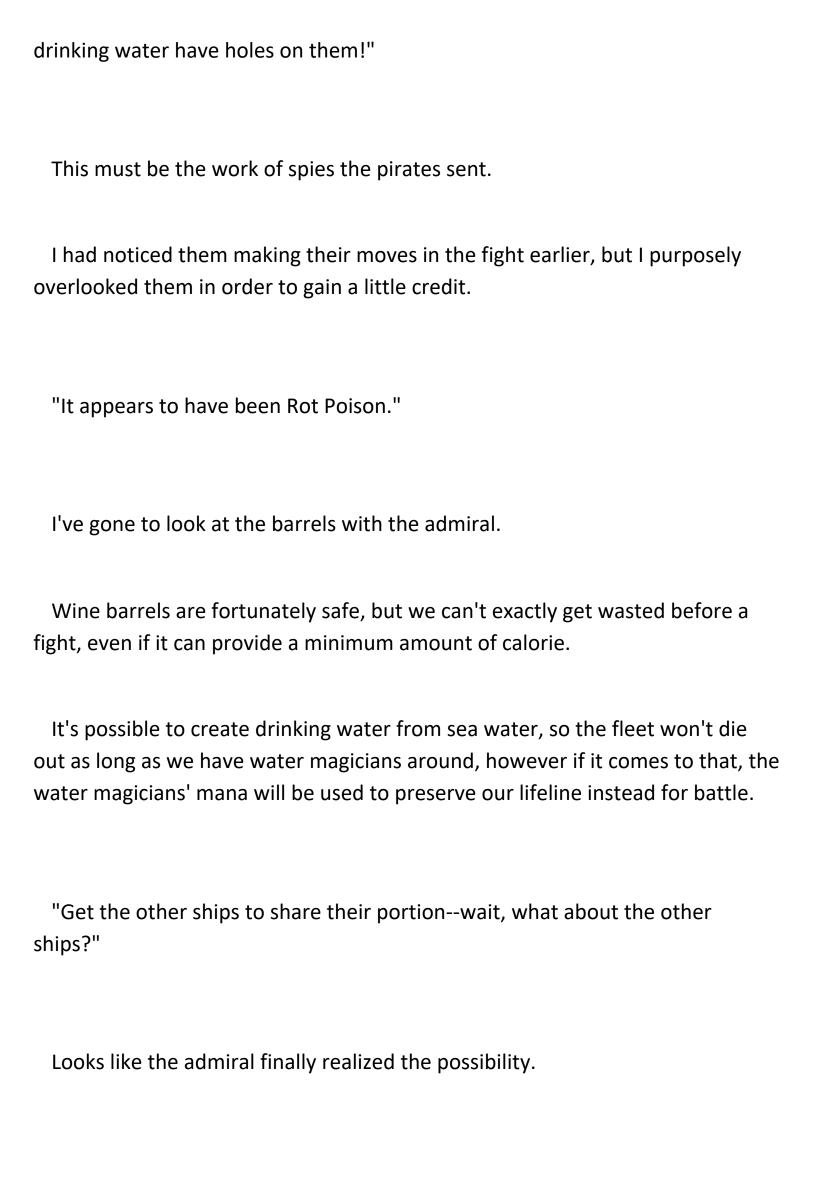
He's probably going to brief them his plan.

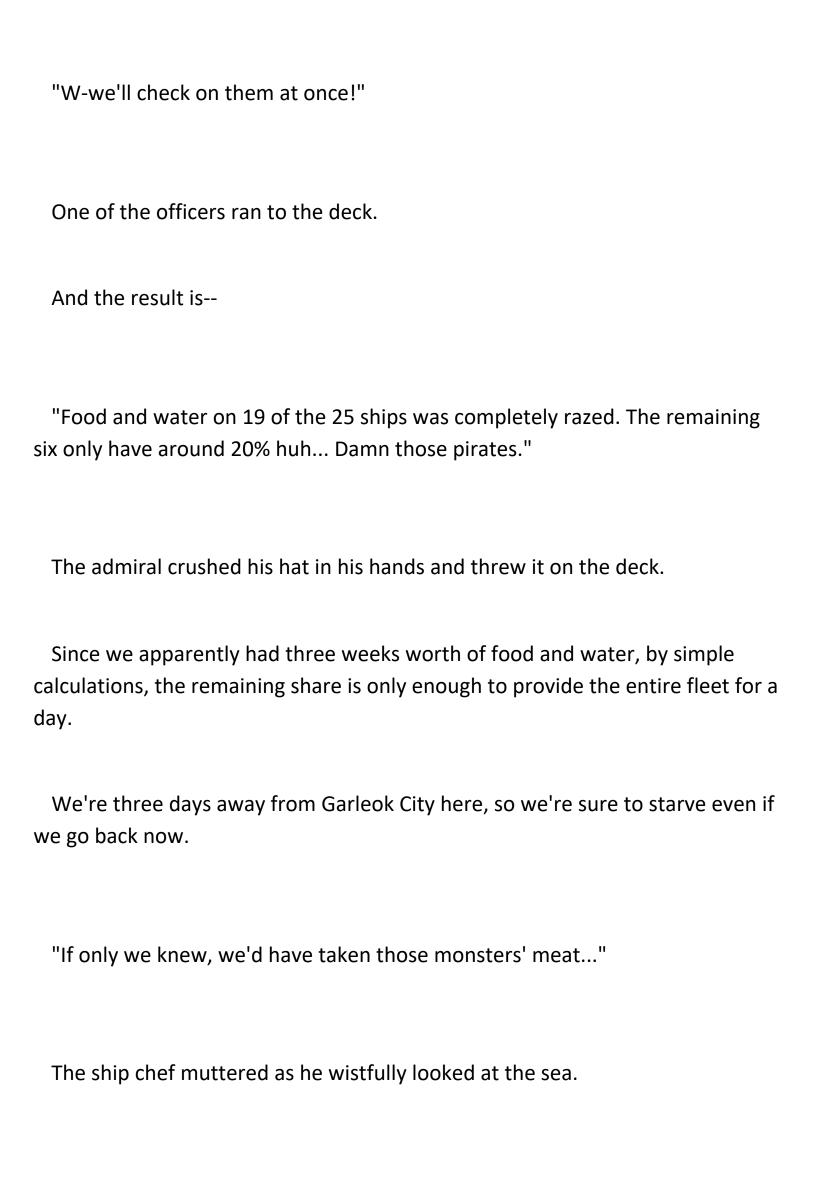
"Alright, let's split the fleet into three groups."



However
"Admiral, that plan is too dangerous if they have monsters like the Kraken earlier with them. Besides, there is no guarantee that the enemy fleet really only has 10 ships."
"Hmph, I know that much."
"Then"
"I ain't changing the plan. We'll just adapt to the situations on the spot if the enemy fleet has Kraken with them."
Adapt to the situations Without a concrete plan, isn't that practically just throwing mud at the wall, hoping some stick?
"That might suffice if their forces consist of only pirates, but if the two support fleets were to encounter a Kraken"
"There is only one Kraken; the one earlier."
The admiral declared so to interrupt me.

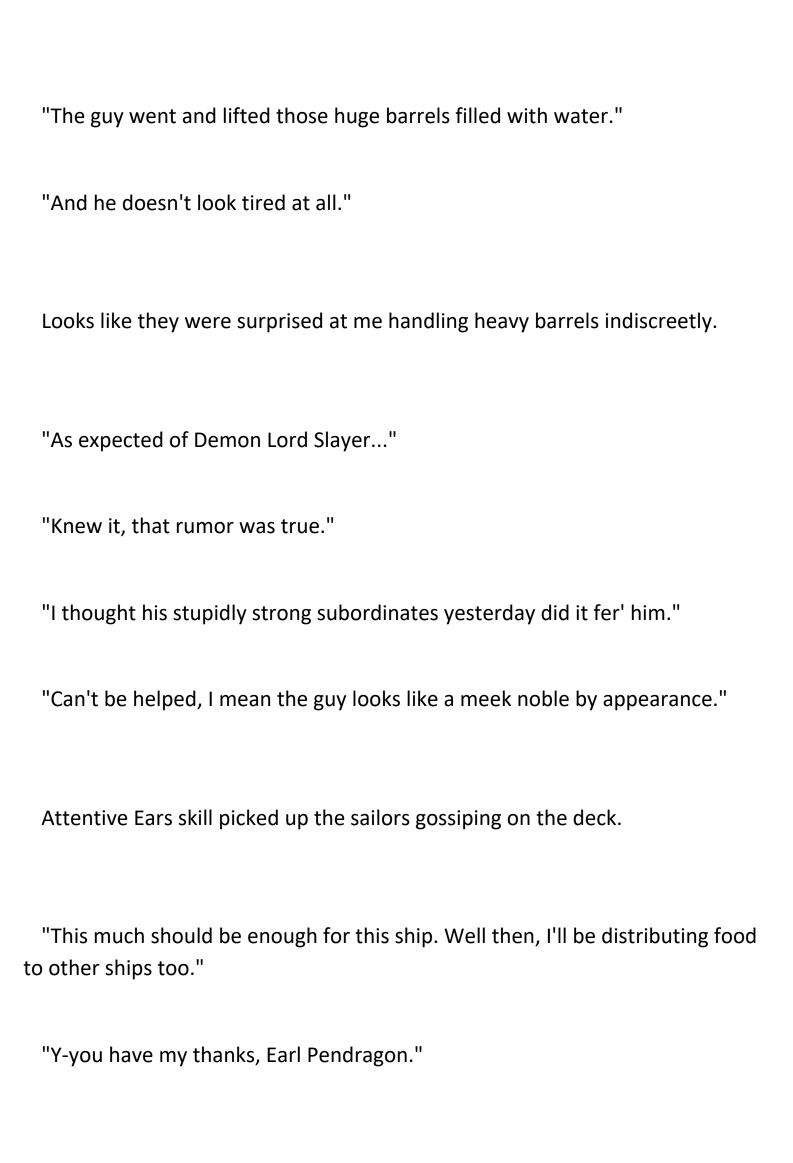


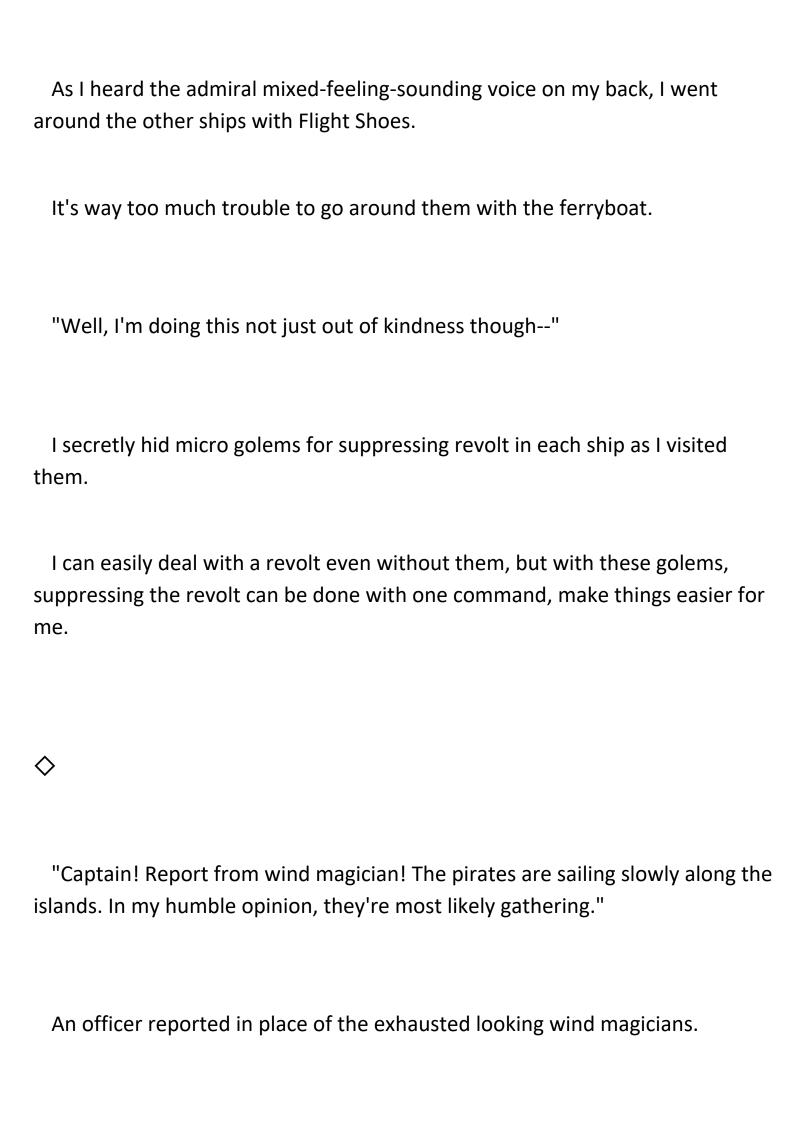


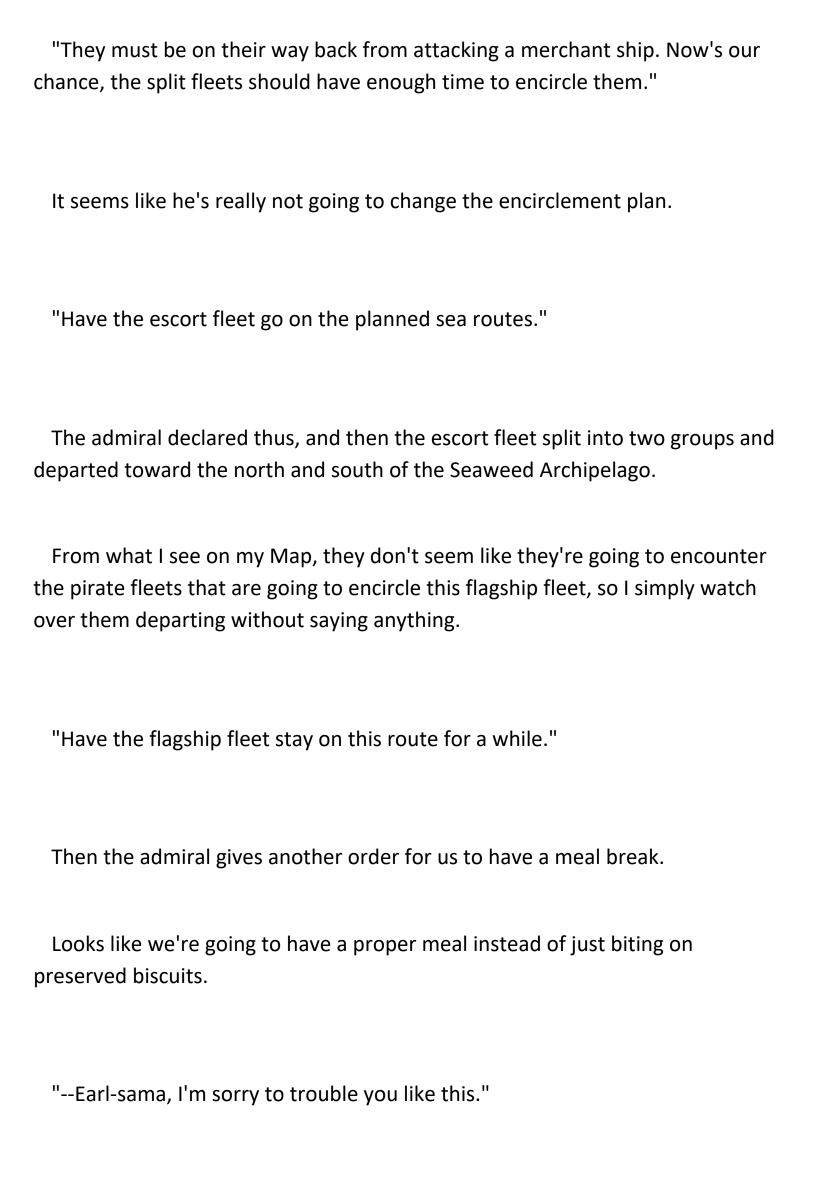












"Don't worry about it."
I helped carrying two barrels from the ship's hold and cooked vegetable soup in the kitchen.
They'd get suspicious if the food was too fresh, so only the flagship fleet got meat other than jerky.
"Smells so nice"
"I can't wait."
The finished dishes were brought to the admiral's table one by one since those voices could be heard.
Apparently, hierarchy is important in a warship, and food has to be brought to admiral, officers and then sailors in order.
The meal wouldn't start if I wasn't present with the admiral, so I left the rest to the head chef and went out of the kitchen.
"W0000000"

The admiral who started his meal shouted out loud.

The officers around us stopped their hands thinking that it was poison, but when they saw the admiral furiously continuing his meal, they carried their spoon into their mouth.

"S-so good!"

"T-this stuff's incredible."

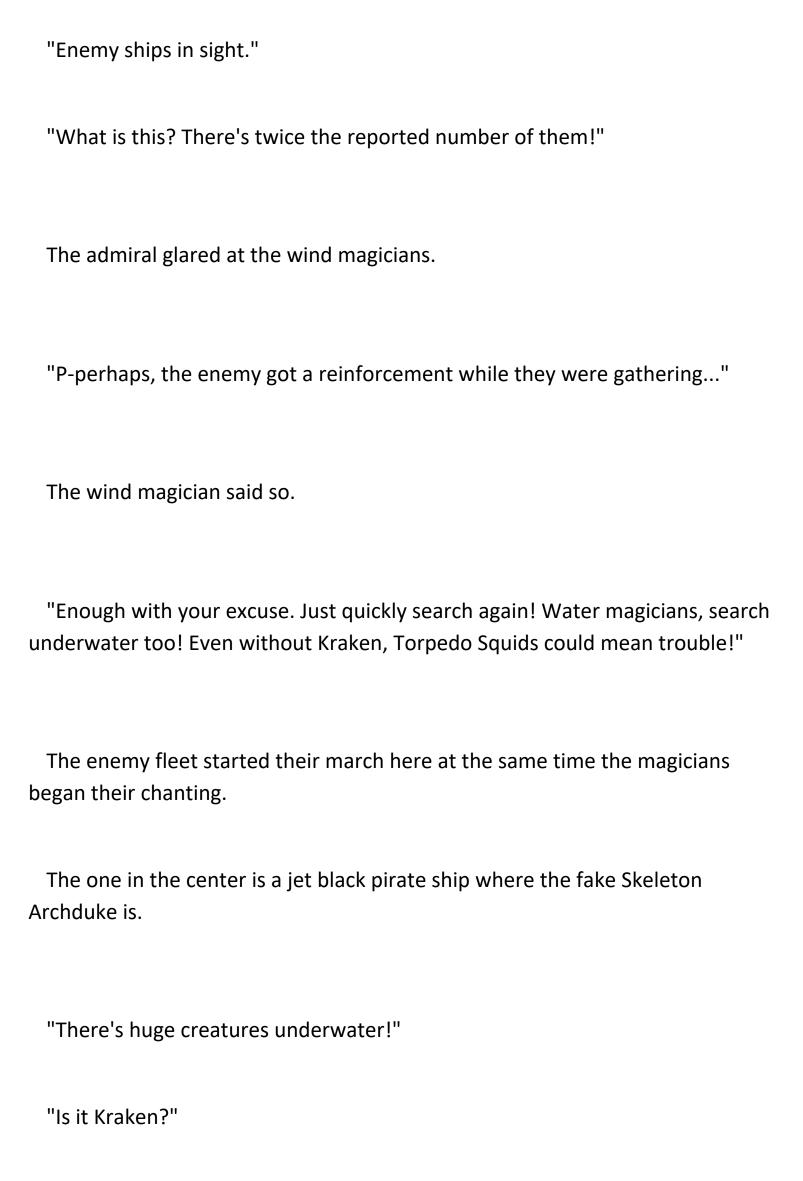
The officers present here praised the food.

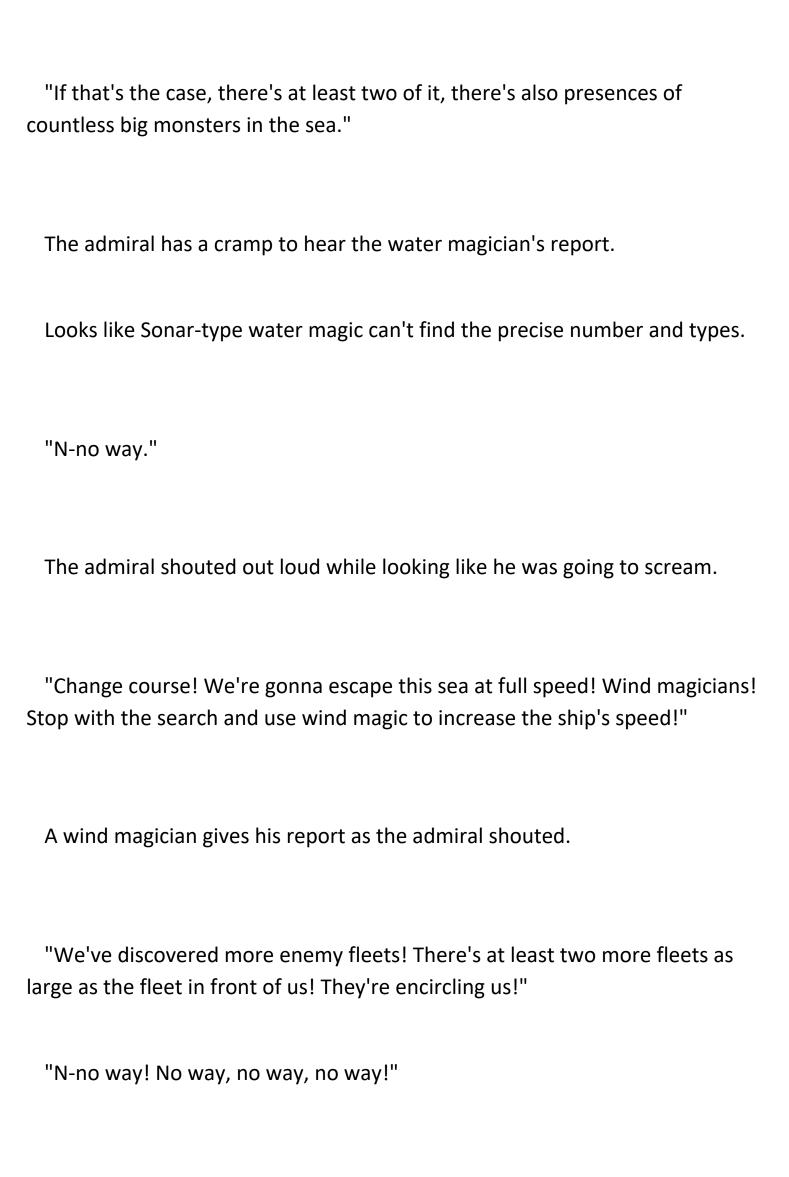
I'm glad that they found it palatable at least.

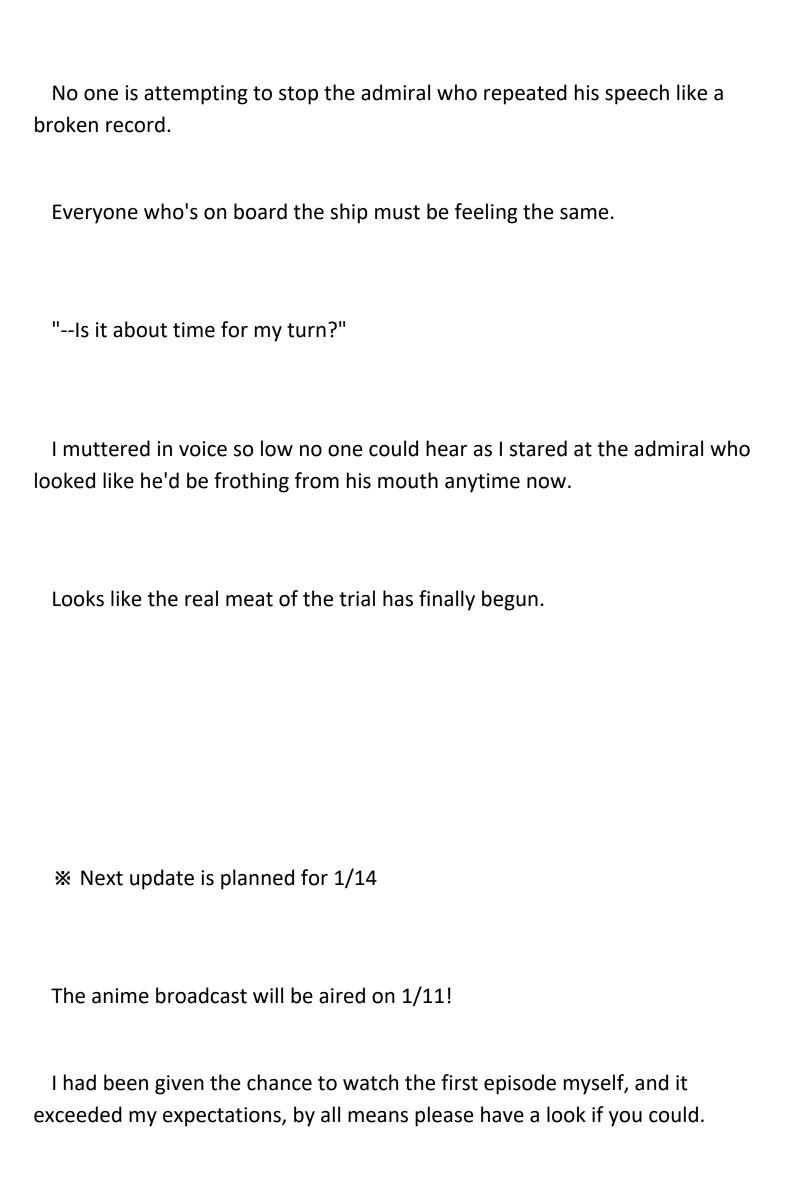
I also quickly take my meal.

I'd feel sorry for the sailors who are stuck to watch the surroundings if I took it easy.









16-31. Garleon Union (7)

Satou here. I think that, just because you can predict everything, doesn't mean you can perfectly foresee everything that will happen in the future. If you can do that, you should also be able to always win a shougi match, right.



"Arrh! Secretary, c'mere!"

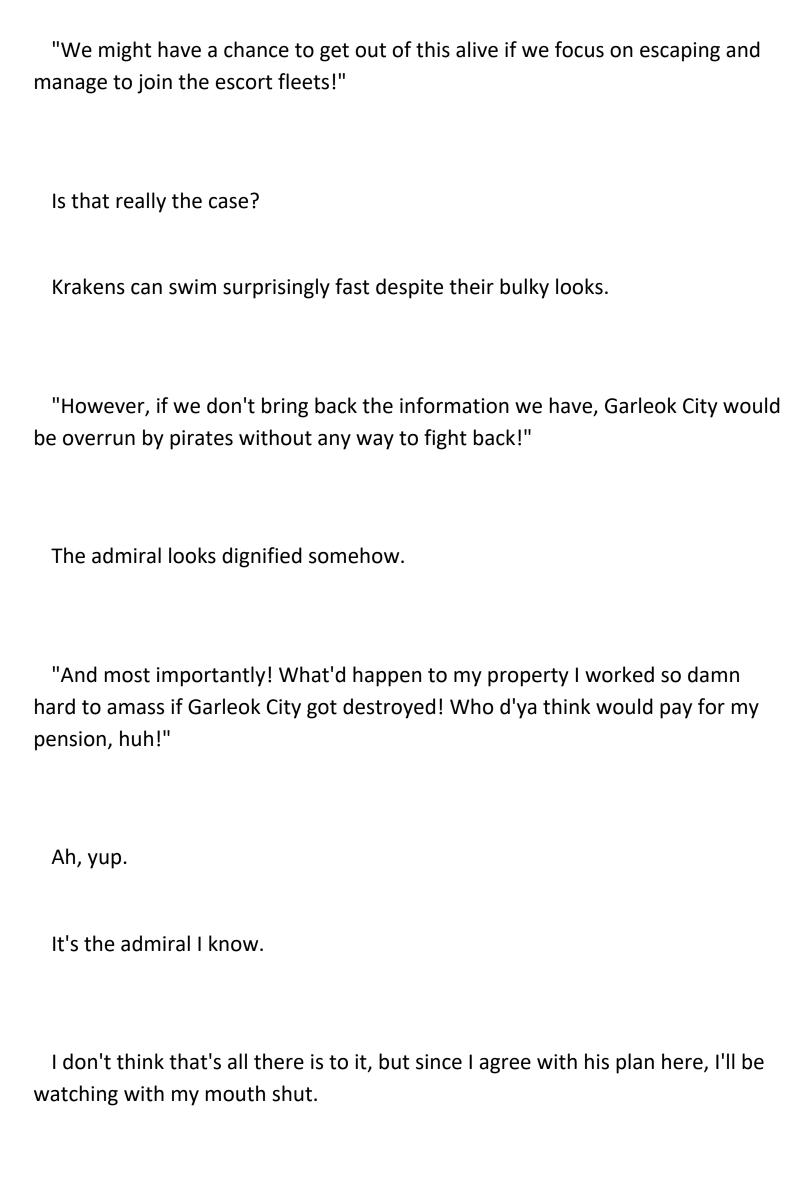
Surprisingly enough, the first person who came to their sense among the ship crew was the admiral who was repeating "No way!" like a broken record.

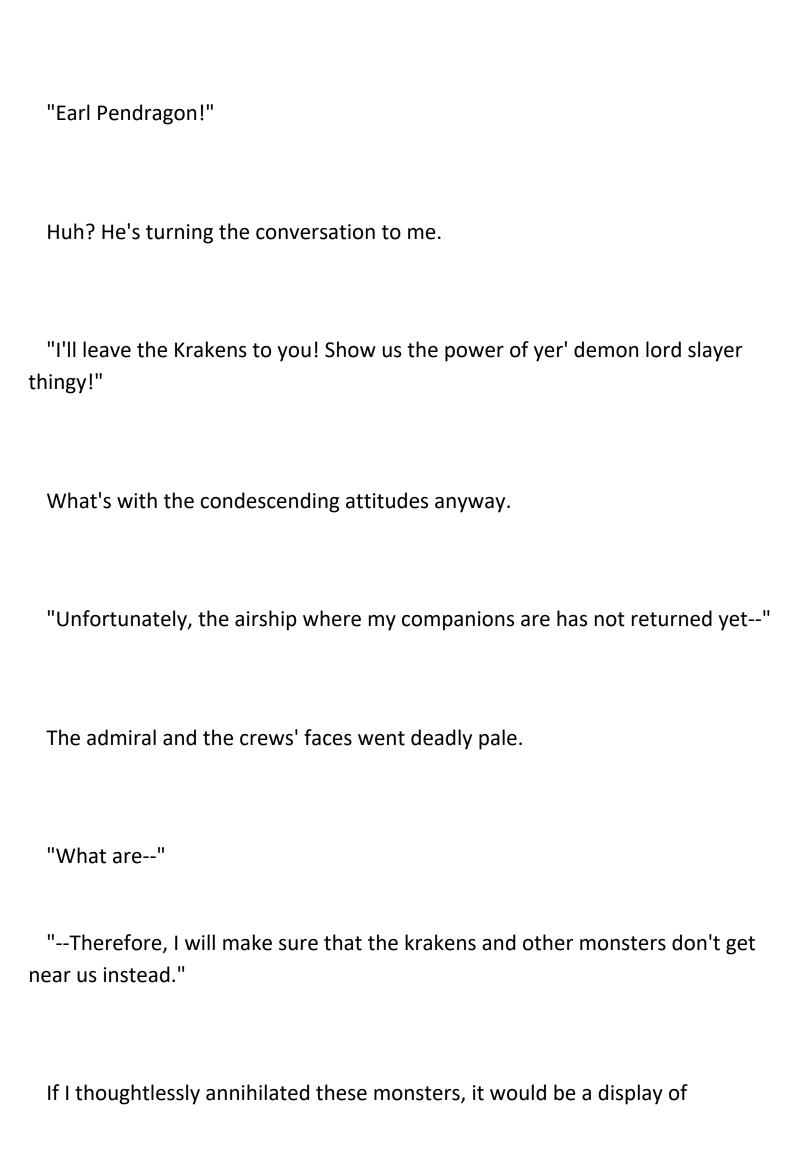
He called the secretary to describe what we know about enemy fleet, and tell him to convey the info to the allied ships, afterward he turns toward the people who are looking at him.

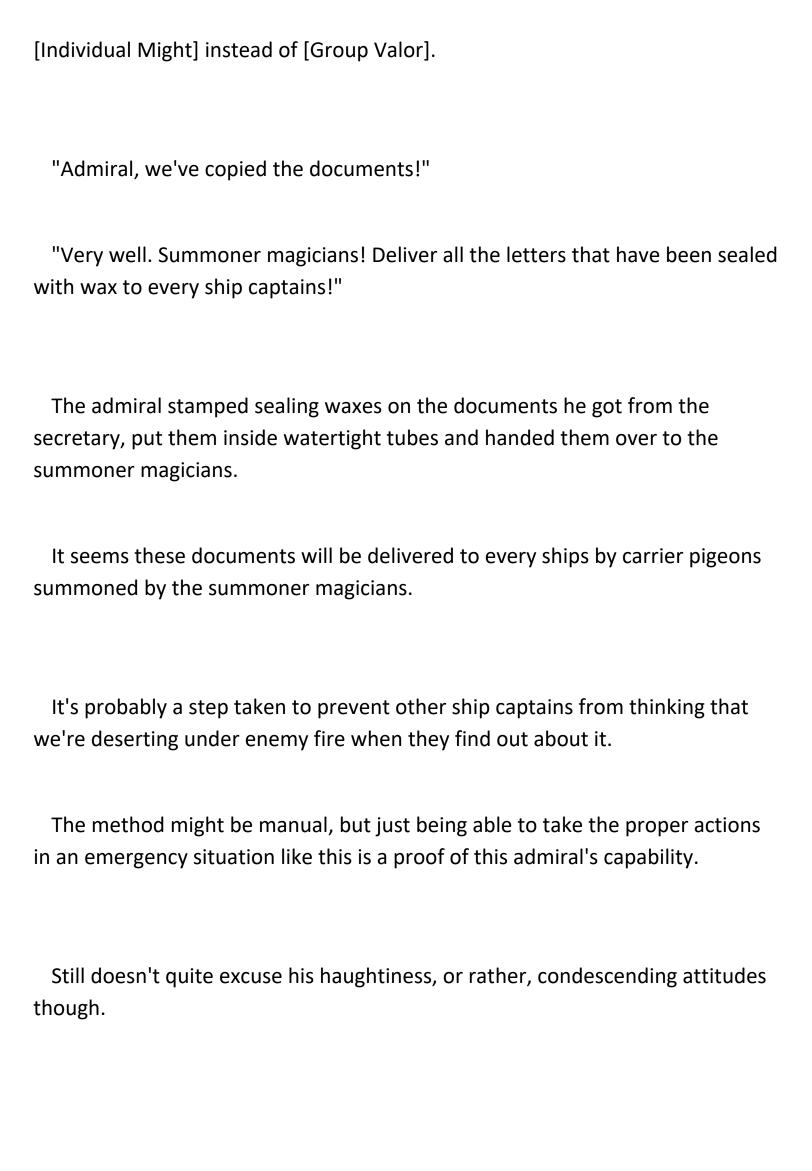
"This main fleet will break through the fleet in front of us, thereafter this fleet is to disband and each ship must return to Garleok City on their own."

Apparently, he's abandoned the idea of winning this and prioritized to deliver the information back, while prepared to have sacrifices along the way.

	"""A-admiral?!"""
а	Considering the difference in forces, I think the admiral's decision is ppropriate, but the ship crew are surprised.
	"Many ships would be sunk before we could break through if we did that."
	"We couldn't possibly defend Garleok City if only a few ships remained!"
K	"That's right! Have you forgotten what the water magician said! There are raken class monsters near the front fleet!"
	Many senior officers tried to change the admiral's mind.
	But wouldn't this fleet be annihilated if we fought directly?
	"'Course I know that much!"
	The admiral shouted back louder than the crew.
	His [Amplification] skill isn't just for show, it seems.









"Shield ships, go full speed ahead! All other ships besides the gunboats and the shield ships are to focus all their efforts into gaining speed! Don't skimp on the magic cores! Doesn't matter even if the magic furnaces broke down! Get to full throttle by any mean possible!"

The admiral gave his orders in rapid successions.

But, did we even have shield ships?

Looking around as I thought that, I saw ships with force magicians on board creating magic that looked similar to Flexible Shield in front of their boarded ships.

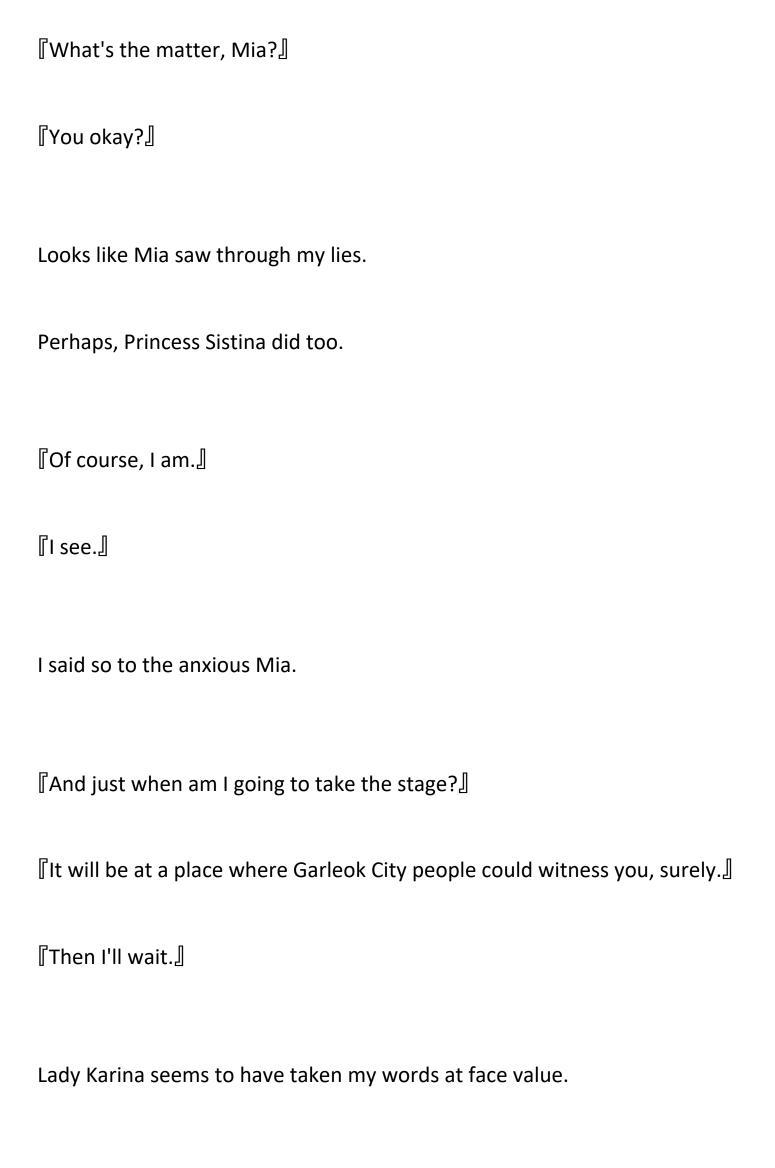
In addition, men who look like sailors are lining up on the deck with great shield made from ultramarine-colored turtle shells on their hands.

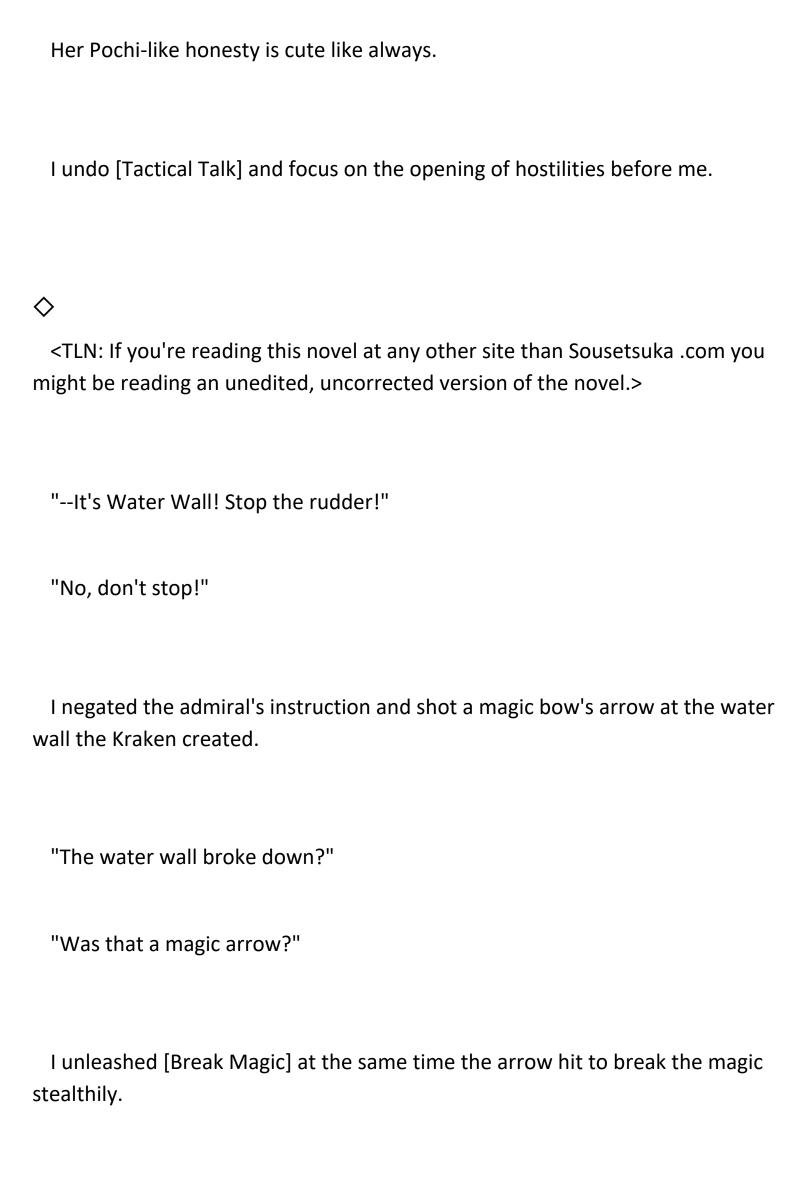
"This area has a lot of reefs around! Order the shield ship water magicians to search underwater! Pick the route that'll send us straight to the enemy flagship!"

Those were some good instructions.

Looks like he didn't obtain the admiral position through connections and lineage.
Well, he has [Command], [Ship Steering] and [Sea Route] skills with him, so I never doubted his competency.
Though considering he also has [Bribe], [Gestures], and [Coercion] skills, he's probably also not your honest-to-goodness admiral either.
"Those who've got nothing to do, go and get the large ballista and crossbows ready!"
The admiral's order wasn't only effective on the flagship, the other escort ships who saw the signal flags also began to charge long-range weapons that hadn't been loaded with mana yet.
"Now then."
I'm not sure if I should call the girls back here or not.
The real war starts here on out no matter how you look at it.
If possible. I'd prefer not to let the girls watch people getting killed.

Even the fight earlier had a lot of casualties. Sistina-sama, there's a chance of the pirates going to do something behind the scene at Garleok City. Could you make the airship go to Garleok City? I concocted that reason with the help of Deception skill. It pains me to have to lie to them, but this is a necessary step to prevent the girls seeing people killing each others. [Oh my? Do you not need reinforcements over there?] Tyes, it looks like the admiral is going to shake off the pirates and head back to Garleok City himself. [...Then we will go back to Garleok City ahead of time.] Princess Sistina consented after contemplating a bit. **Satou.**





I shot out an arrow with a magic bow was to make them think the arrow carried magic break property.

There is a point in me disguising my power after the free-fall attack of Lady Karina and the girls.

If they rely too much on my power, I won't be able to accomplish God Garleon's order of [Command an army, display your group valor].

Well, there's still the problem of acquiring the right to command, but this one is not that difficult to solve.

I could simply make the admiral sleep with anesthetic needle, and then act as his dummy with Ventriloquism.

"Incoming enemy bombardment!"

Lots of pirate ships seem to have been equipped with mana cannons themselves, several ships fired their load on the shield ships, hitting the barrier and scattering sparks around.

Quite a sight to behold.



I'd feel bad if deserted these sailors as it happened right in front of my eyes, so I had transported them to the sub-dimension before they got charred.

While I was doing that, one of the shield ship's barrier hit its limit and broke down, sinking the ship.

I extend out [Magic Hands] and save as many sailors as I possibly can.

This is more hectic than expected.

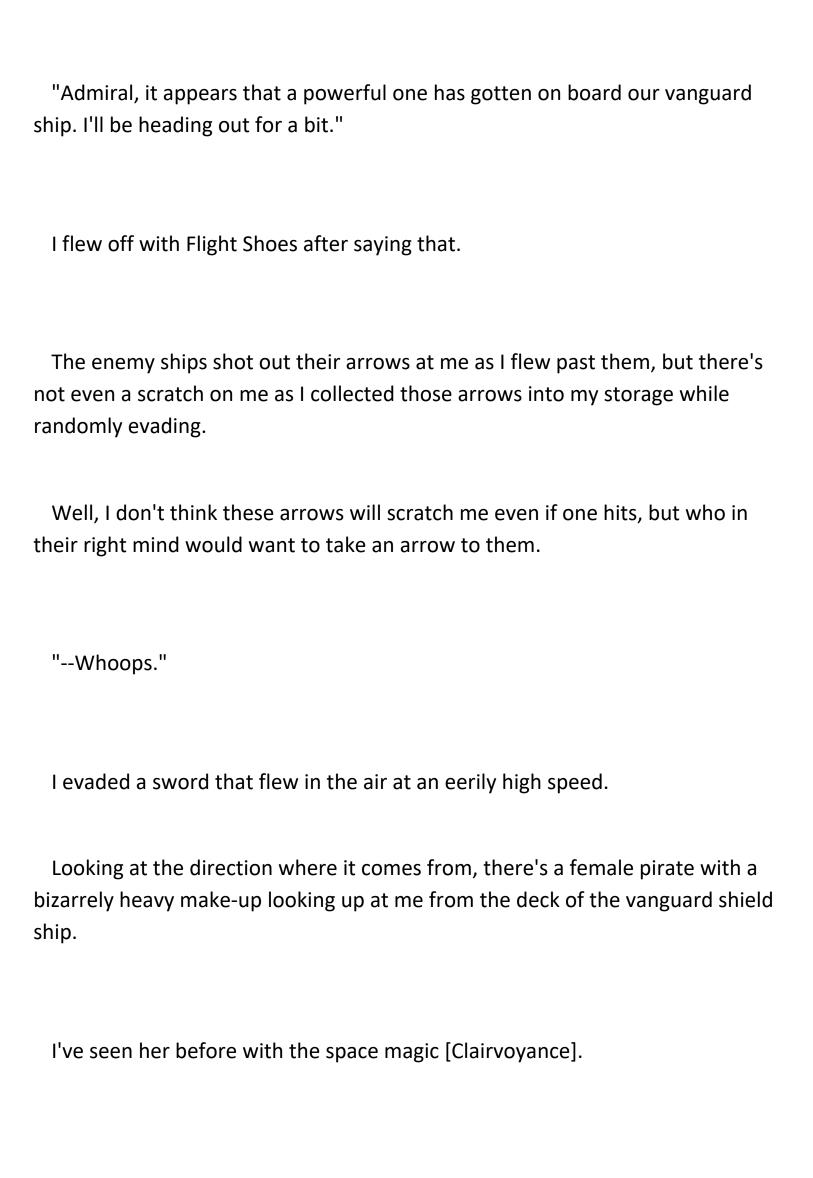
Some pirate ships have also been sunk by the attack of our side's gunboats, but I don't have enough hands to save those ones.

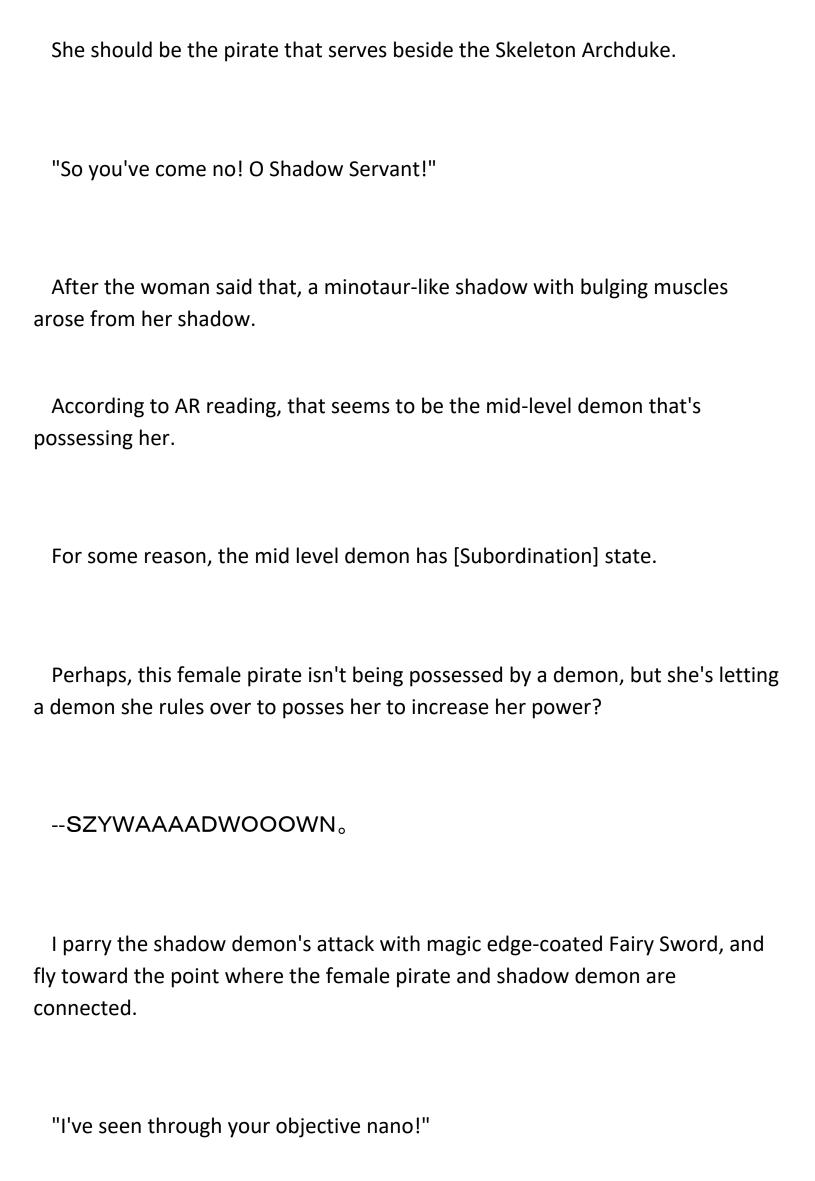
It's not exactly impossible if I try, but I have no obligation to go out of my way, saving those who survive later should be good enough.

--What?

Several dots on a shield ship that had led the way and got past the enemy ships disappeared even though its barrier hasn't been breached.

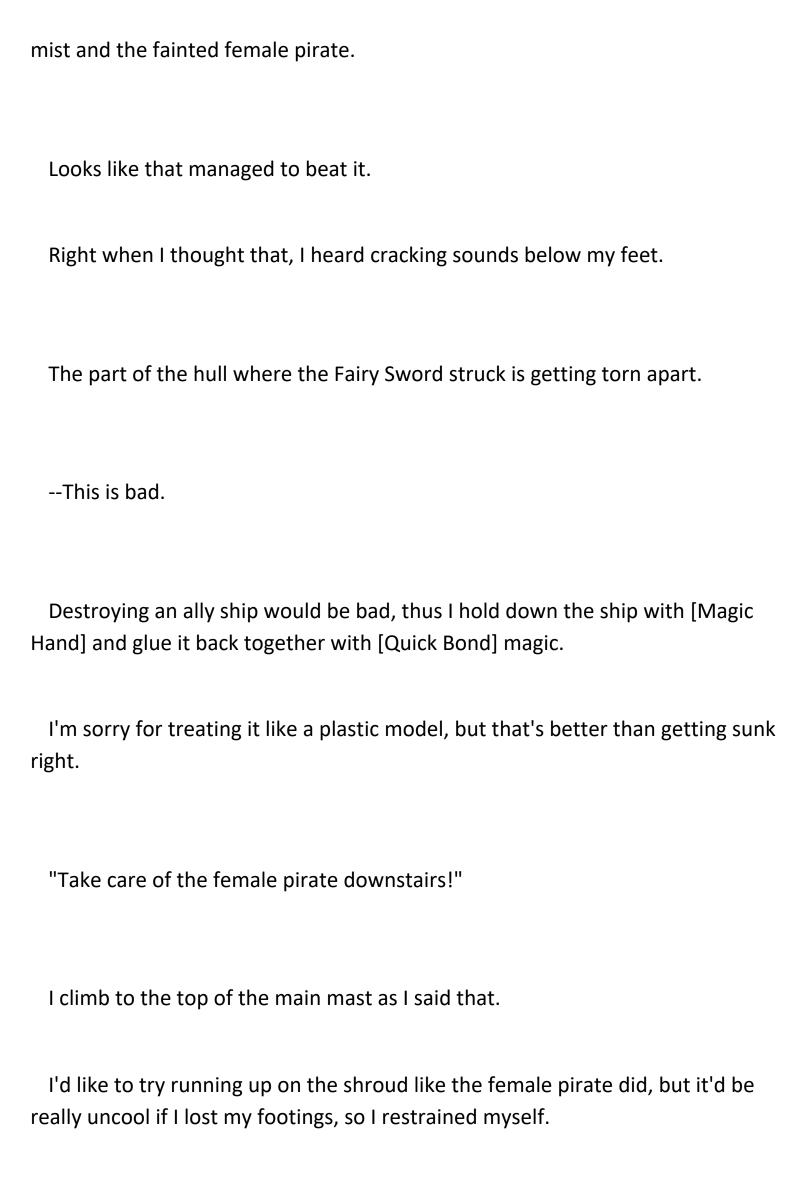
The enemy arrows shouldn't be able to reach the ship with the protection of the wind magicians on board.











TWAAAKCOOOWN。
IKZWAAAAAAWN。
A squid-shaped and an octopus-shaped Kraken tore through the sea surface.
The people who were on the deck screamed when they saw that.
"I would have loved to let Lady Karina and Mia deal with these guys if I could
I ready my magic bow, create a phantom arrow and multifold magic circles with God Garleon holy mark on them at the tip of the arrow with [Illusion] magic.
So cool. Arisa would be ecstatic if she saw this.
"By the divine protection of God Garleon, wicked sea monsters, begone!"
I put some strength in my belly and shouted out loud.
Of course, with the assistance of Amplification skill and wind magic.

I release the magic bow's string that has been pulled to its limit	
--	--

The phantom arrow was clad in red light as it flew, blowing away the octopus kraken in one hit, then the kraken floated on the sea.

Of course, the kraken wasn't blown away by the phantom arrow, but by a low tier explosion spell I shot out chantlessly.

The sea falls into disorder, and both the pirate fleet and allied fleet are tossed around like foliage with no chance to attack each other.

--I think this should be the right timing?

"O Golden Wheel! Lead the way for our ships!"

I put an illusion of [Golden Wheel], that's in my storage, in the sky using [Illusion] magic, and make the allied fleet ships to slip pass the pirate fleet with [Magic Hand] and [<<Control Ocean>>] magic.

11

--This is bad.

11

In defiance of this raging sea, a jet black pirate ship is attempting to ram the flagship with its battering horn.

Sinking that ship is simple, but evading that while remote controlling 11 ships at once won't be easy.

I could end up capsizing them all before the battering horn came if I forced myself.

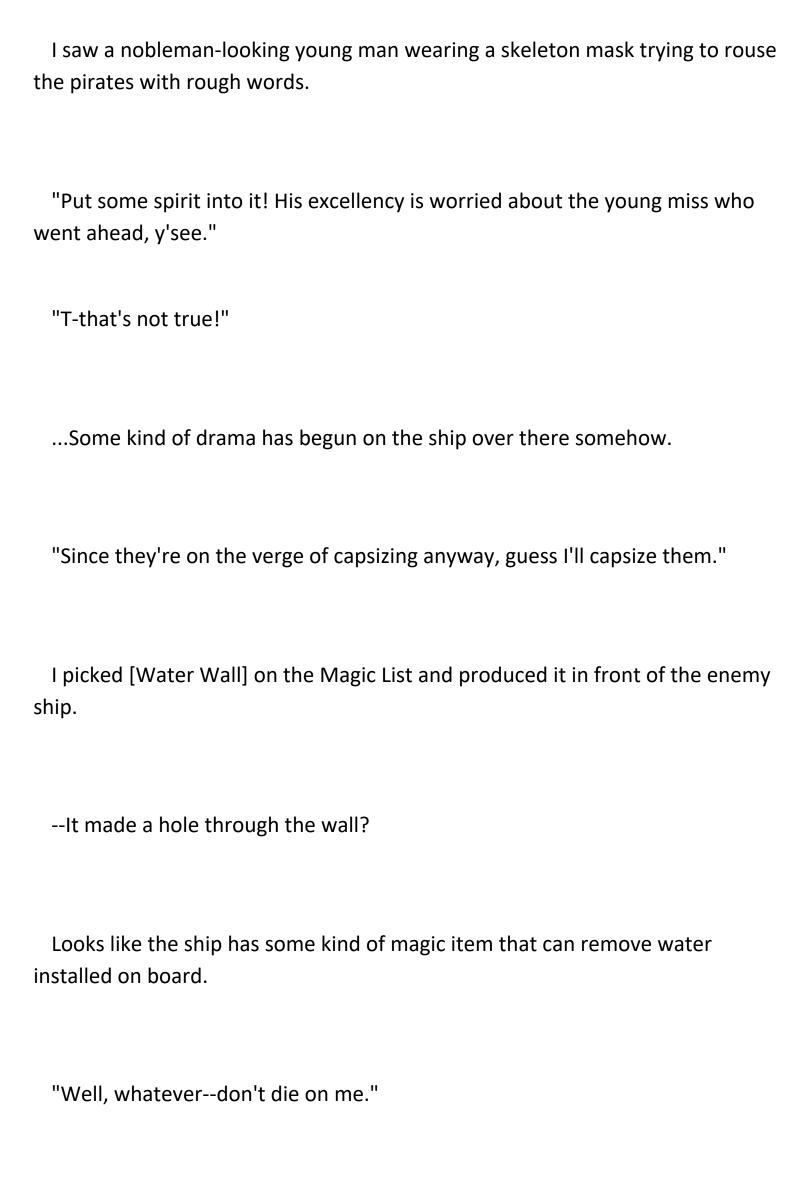
"Skeleton Archduke's ship, incoming!"

I can't imagine that dainty young man to do such a reckless act like ramming with a battering horn.

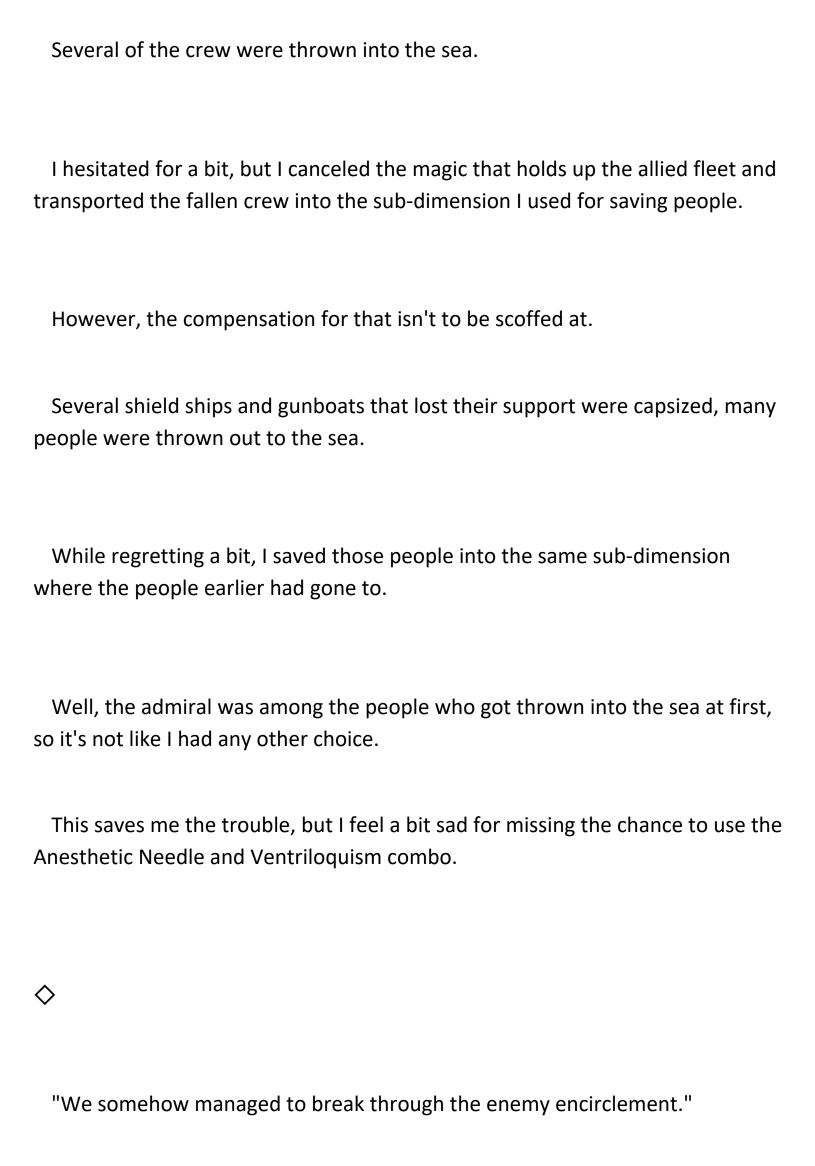
While running in parallel with the ships remote control, I try to look at the situation in the enemy ship with space magic [Clairvoyance], and [Clairhears].

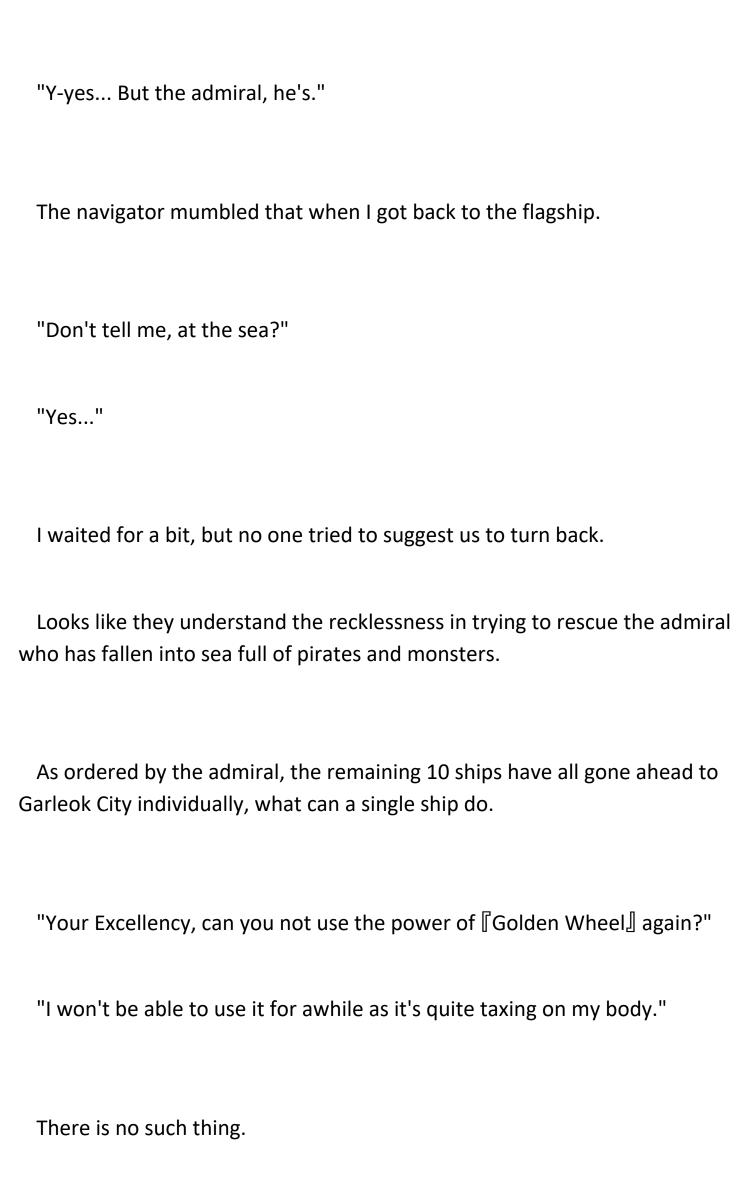
"Your excellency Archduke! We'd be capsized before the battering horn could reach them at this rate!"

"Do not falter! Men of the sea never turn tail and run!"

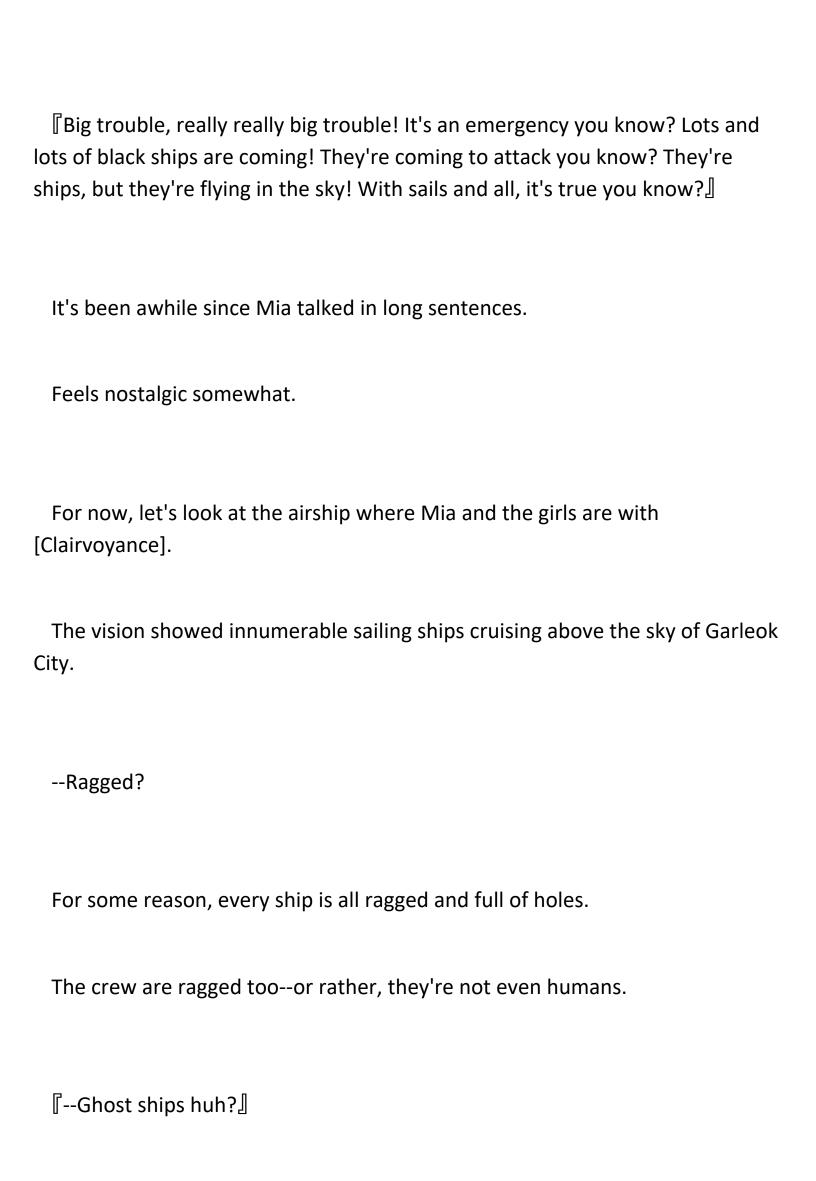








I mean, the stuff I did earlier was my own magic. According to what I heard at Garleon Temple, the Wheel apparently can call out the [Golden Ship] but I haven't given it a try. It's probably going to be quite showy, my own magic is easier to handle. "Turn the ship back to Garleok City." I suggested that the navigator who was asking for an order with his glances. --I feel the cuff on my legs getting pulled, so I look down below. Tama who showed her face out on the shadow moved her finger beside her face to make a gesture asking me to contact them with space magic, and then she disappeared into the shadow. [Satou!] Mia raised her voice when I connected with [Tactical Talk].



It seems like the pirates we fought earlier were just decoys.

As a proof, a being called Skeleton Archduke is on board the flagship of this ghost fleet.

Now then, how shall I go about rescuing them?

16-32. Garleon Union (8)

This is from Princess Sistina's point of view

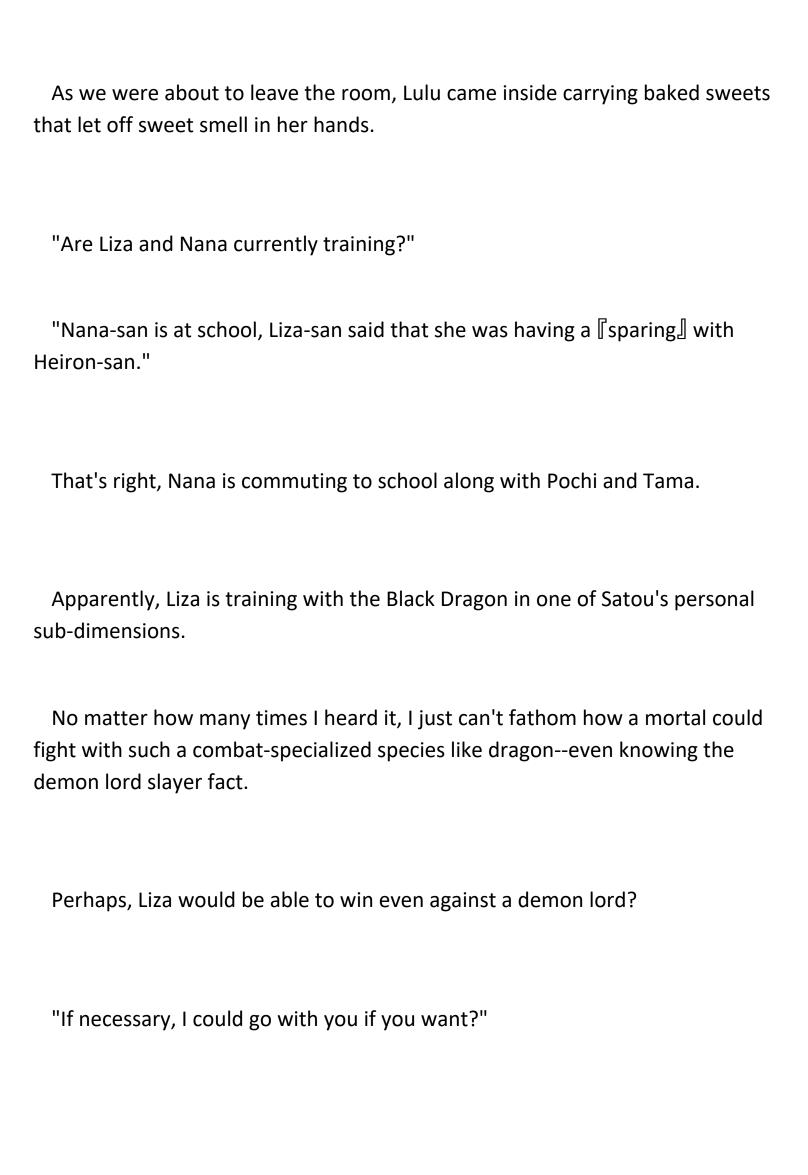
"Sistina-sama!"

The brownie who was assigned to pilot the airship came by while we were relaxing at the Solitary Island Palace.

"We'll be arriving above Garleok City shortly."

"Airships are really fast, aren't they."

I head back to the airship with Mia-sama and Karina-sama.



Lulu's sniping skill is extraordinary, but it's not exactly suitable against groups of pirates.

Besides, it seems like Satou doesn't want to let Lulu step foot in a battlefield where people kill each other.

So long we have Mia-sama's spirit magic, we should be able to handle it as long as no demon lord comes out, and Lady Karina is quite sufficient for the close-quarter combat.

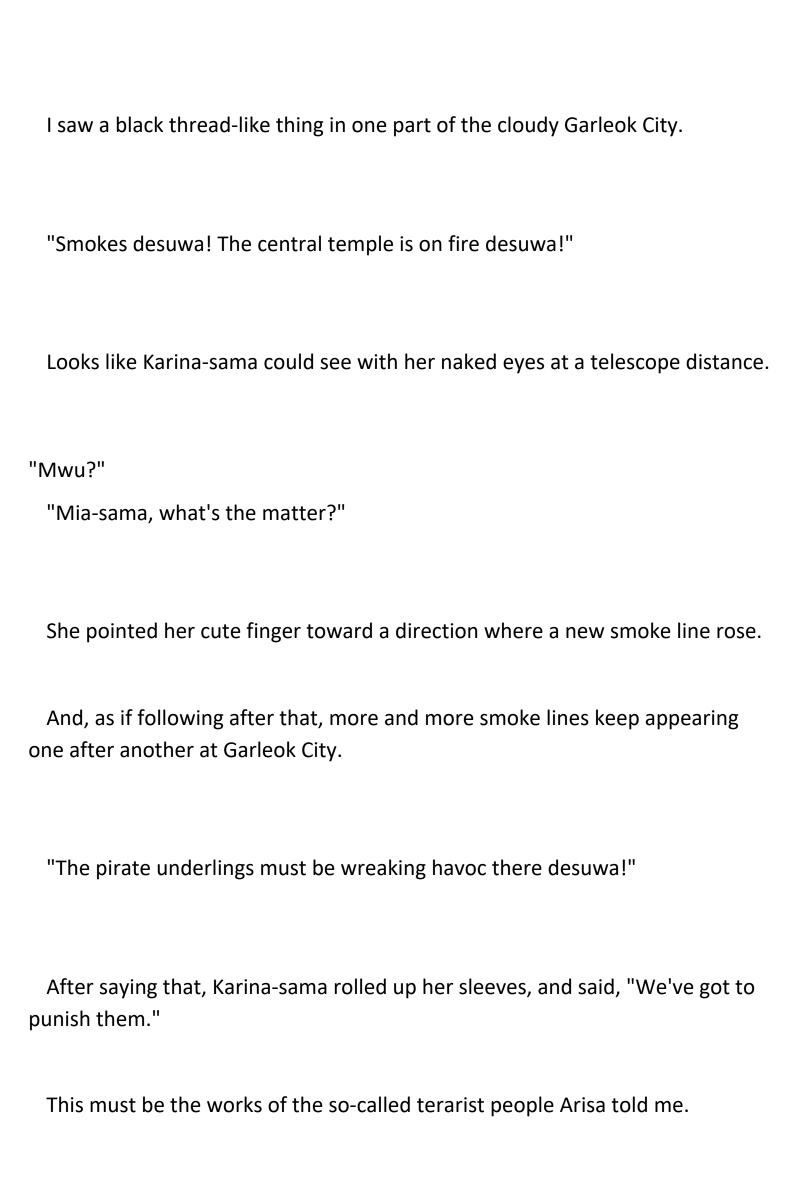
We would have an easier time maintaining the allied front lines had Serasama who could all kinds of healing magic was here with us, but she's presently occupied with the ceremony preparation together with Arisa, she cannot be here.

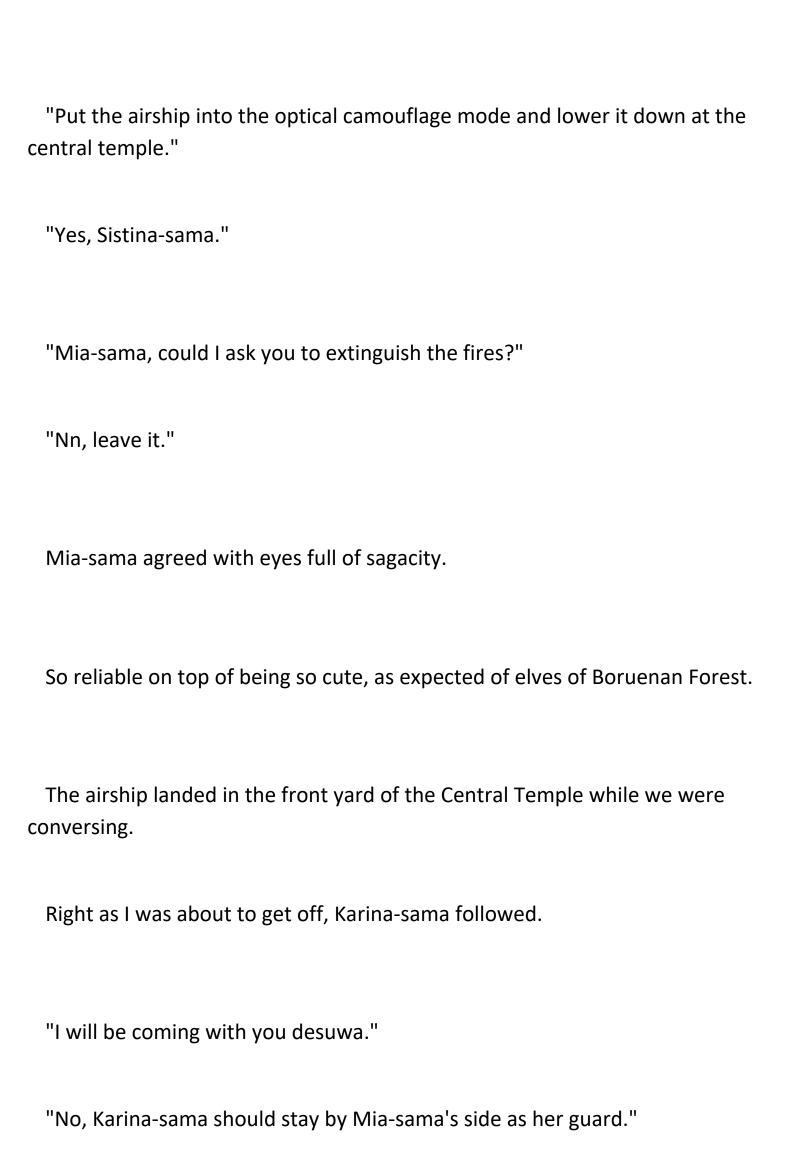
"No, please don't worry, we will be fine."

I shook my head, then Lulu obediently consented and handed over the baked sweets for Satou to Mia-sama.

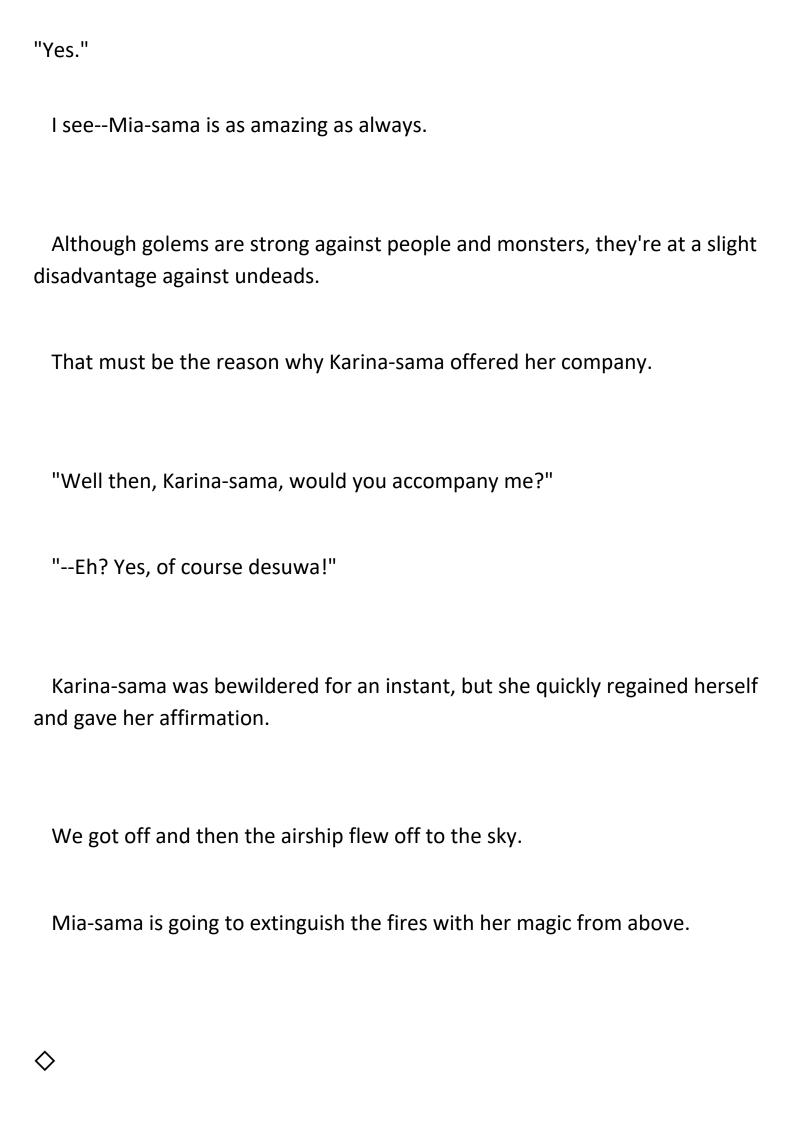


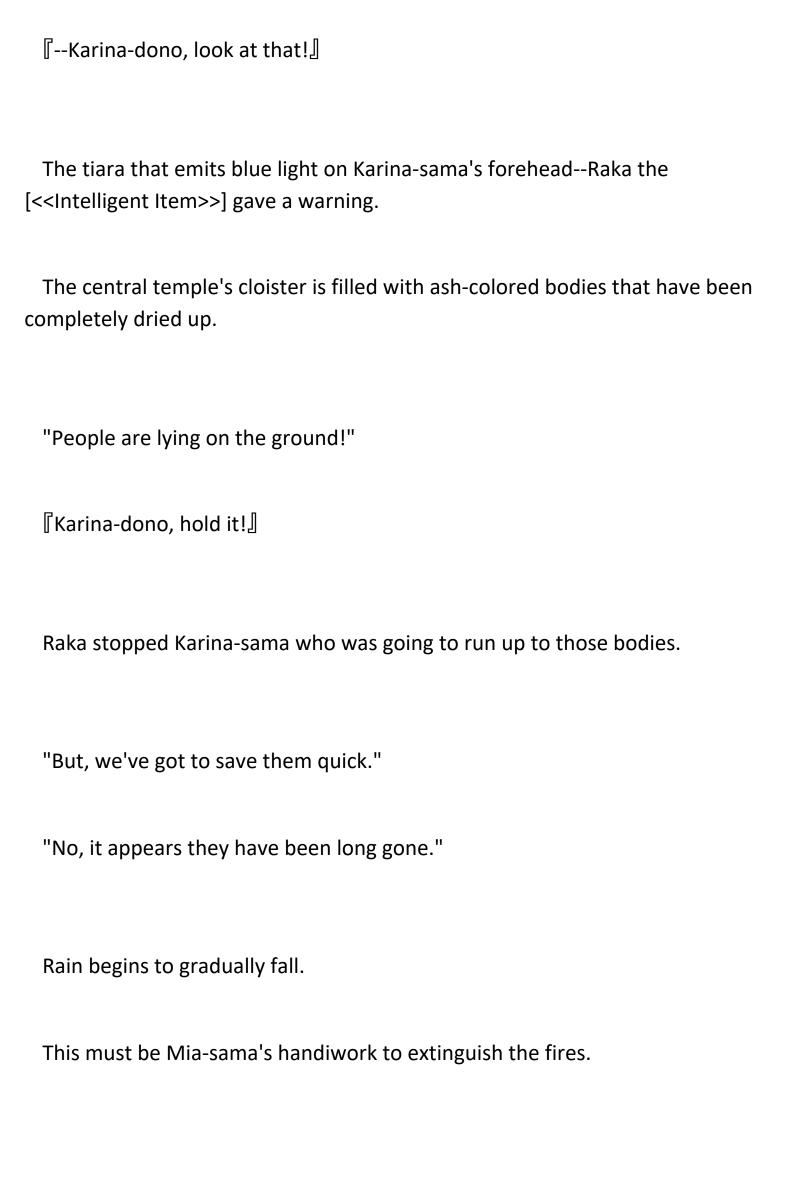
"What is that I wonder?"











"--- True Silver Horse]"

I called out to a pony-sized true silver horse golem from my personal magic tool, and then I rode on it to run past the cloister.

I've also let loose of True Steel Wolf golems that Satou made for me to act as a scout, going ahead.

No monster should exist that's capable of stopping the True Steel Wolves that can fight on par with Shiga Eight Swords, however I still hovered away [Drone-kun 39] to look out in the surroundings.

The sphere-shaped drone may not look strong, but even one of this is capable of downing a mere wyvern.

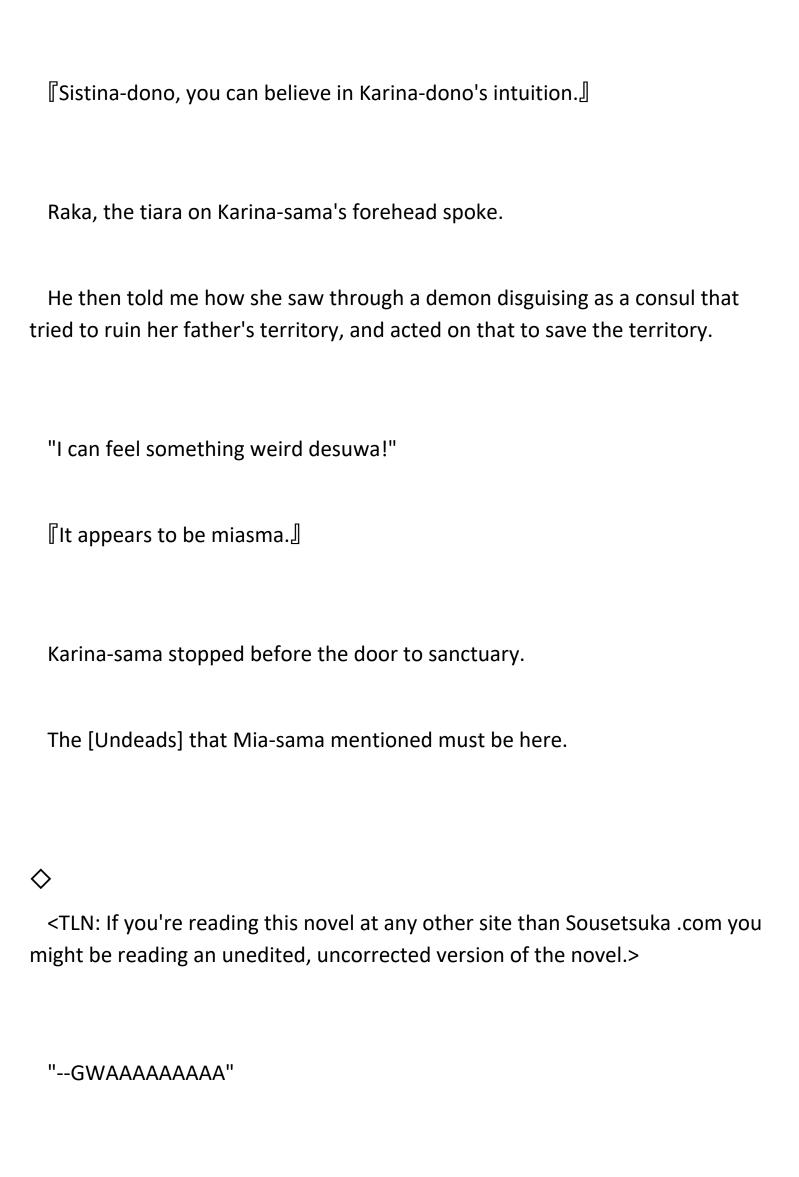
Together with these impregnable guardians, I rode the True Silver Horse toward the temple where the black smoke is rising.

--Karina-sama?

Karina-sama who had run past me and was running side by side with the True Steel Wolves made a sudden stop, breaking the stone pavements as a result.

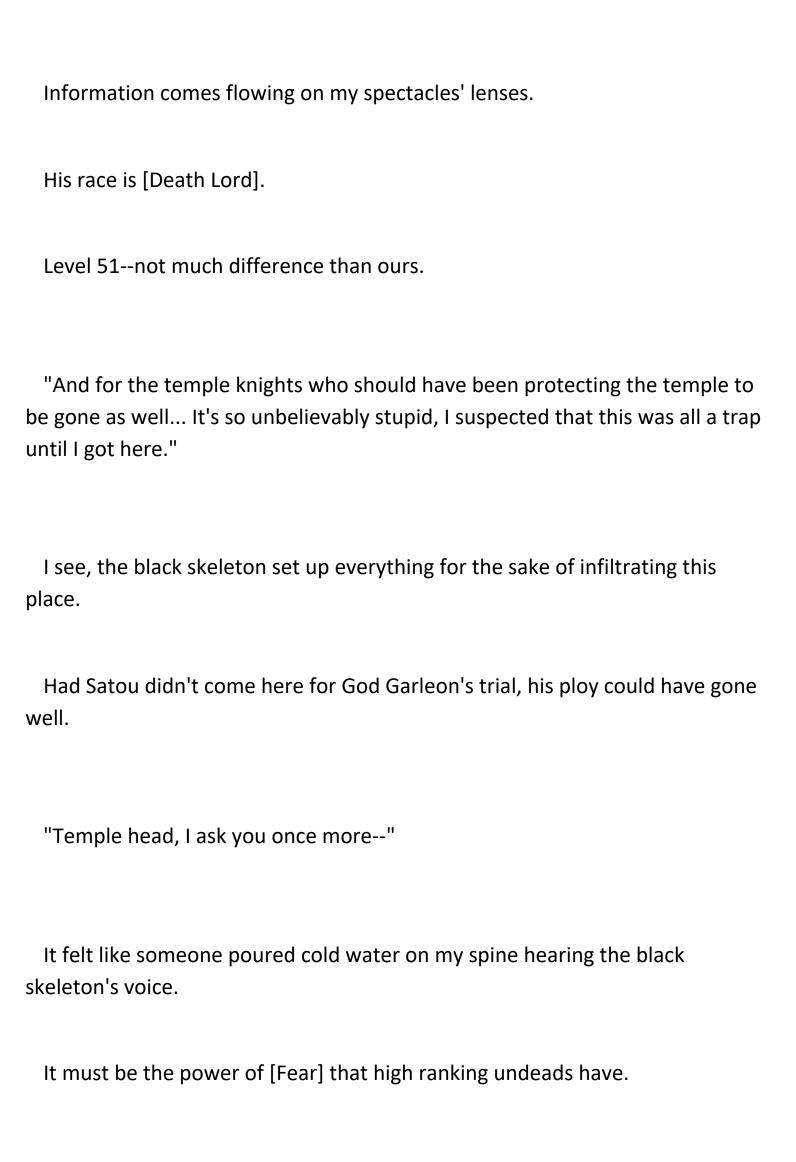
Hit by the ever-increasing torrential rain, the dust forming from the broken stone pavements fell on the ground.

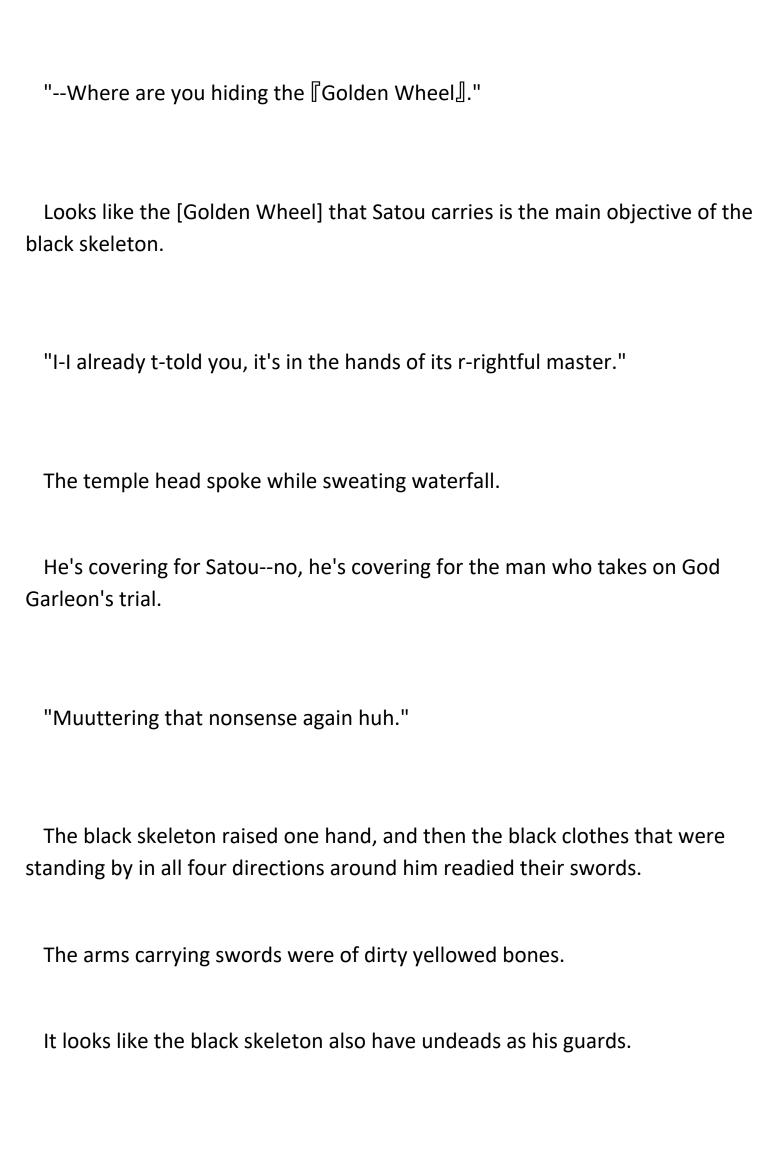




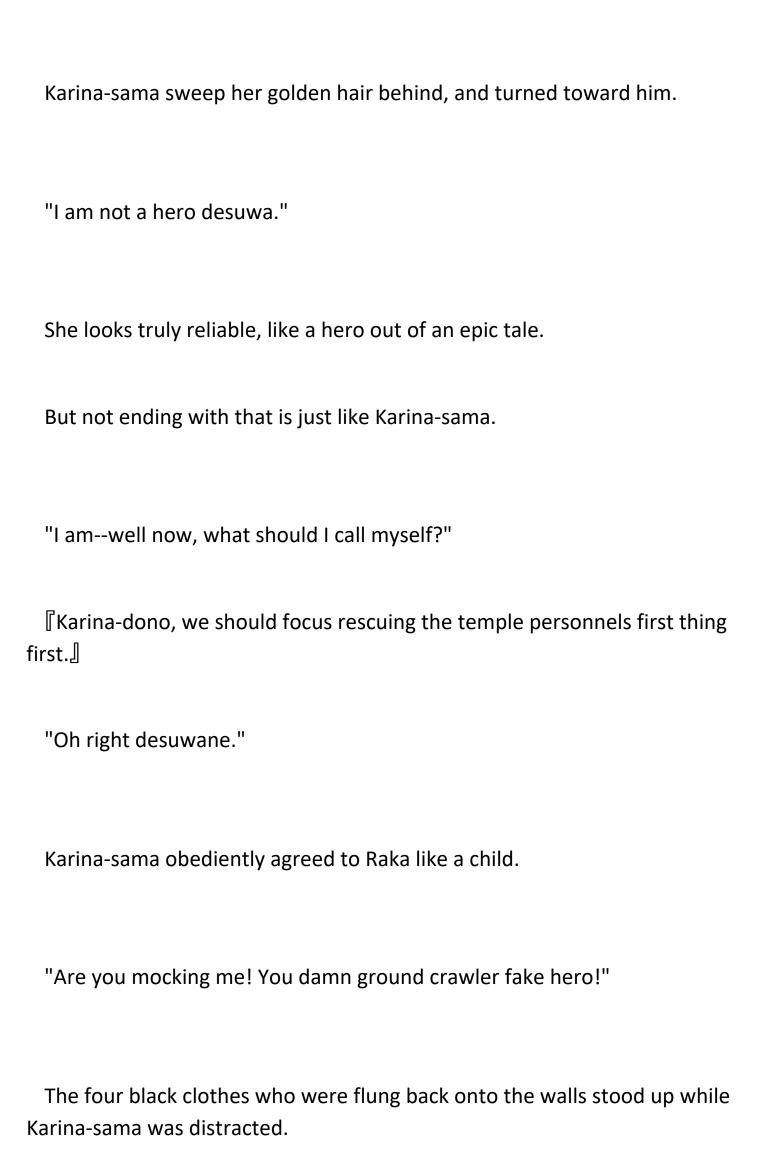
"O God Garleon! Grant your protection unto your believers!"
In front of Garleon Holy Mark, the temple head, several miko and high ranking priests are facing off against black clothed men.
This was right when a temple knight, who was fighting against the man in the center of the black clothed men, met his demise.
I hold back Karina-sama who was going to run off while saying, "Oh no desuwa", and ascertained the situations for now.
I ask Raka to tell the situations to Mia-sama up above on the airship.
"Fools who accumulated enough miasma to even let undeads like us, the so-called Impurity, into a sanctuary crowned in the God's name, and you dared to ask God's protection in the name of believers!"
A deep voice echoing like it was from hell itself came from the black clothes in the center.
The black clothes let down their hoods while ridiculing the temple clergies.
Jet black skeleton?

The black clothed man in the middle wasn't a human, but an undead.
He must be the originator of the miasma that Mia-sama noticed.
"This cannot be! How could an undead be fine inside temple's Sanctuary?"
"Let me give you the answer to that"
The black skeleton elatedly continued on in spite of the sorrowful grief of the temple head.
"This Garleok City has always been a city where foolish merchants drown in their own greed. Thus, we simply manipulate the pirates to thicken the miasma and expand our sphere of actions."
While listening to the skeleton, I investigate the identity of these undeads using the Appraisal Spectacles Satou gave me.
"We let loose of the iceberg and the pirates to tear the navy off of Garleok City, but I'd have never imagined you'd sortie the entire fleet to face the pirates, y'know?"



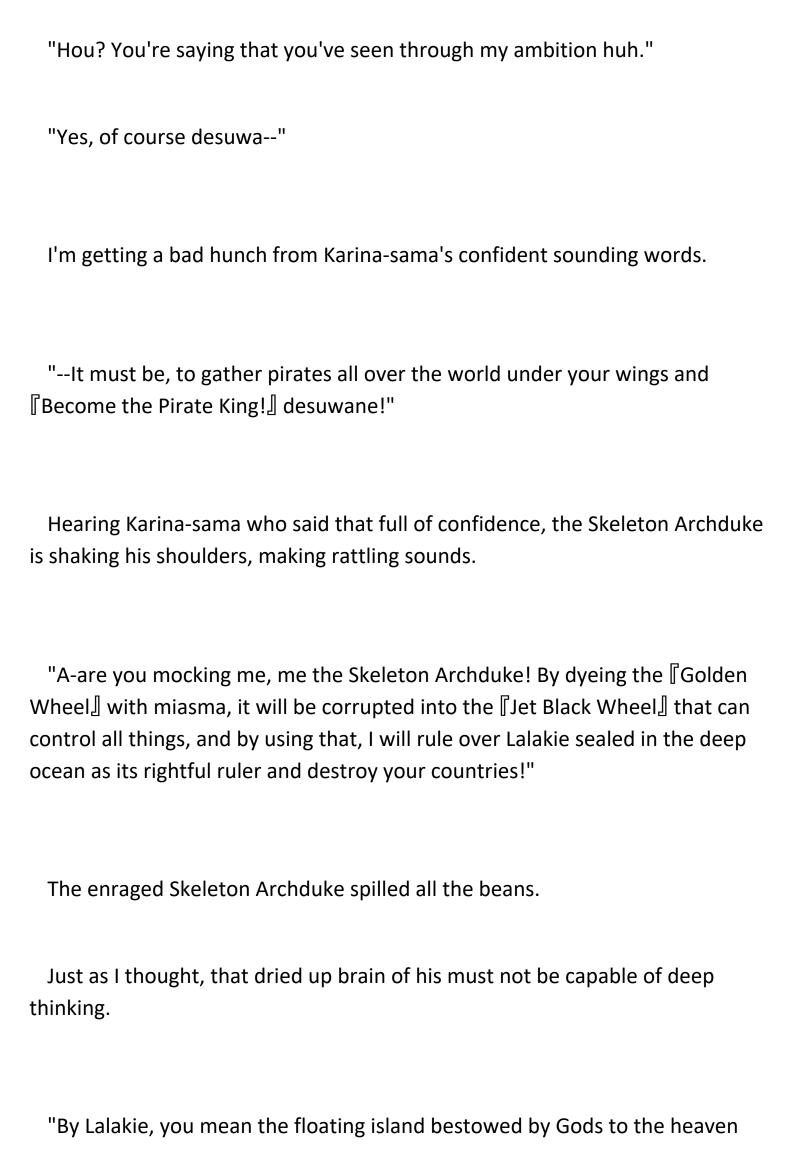


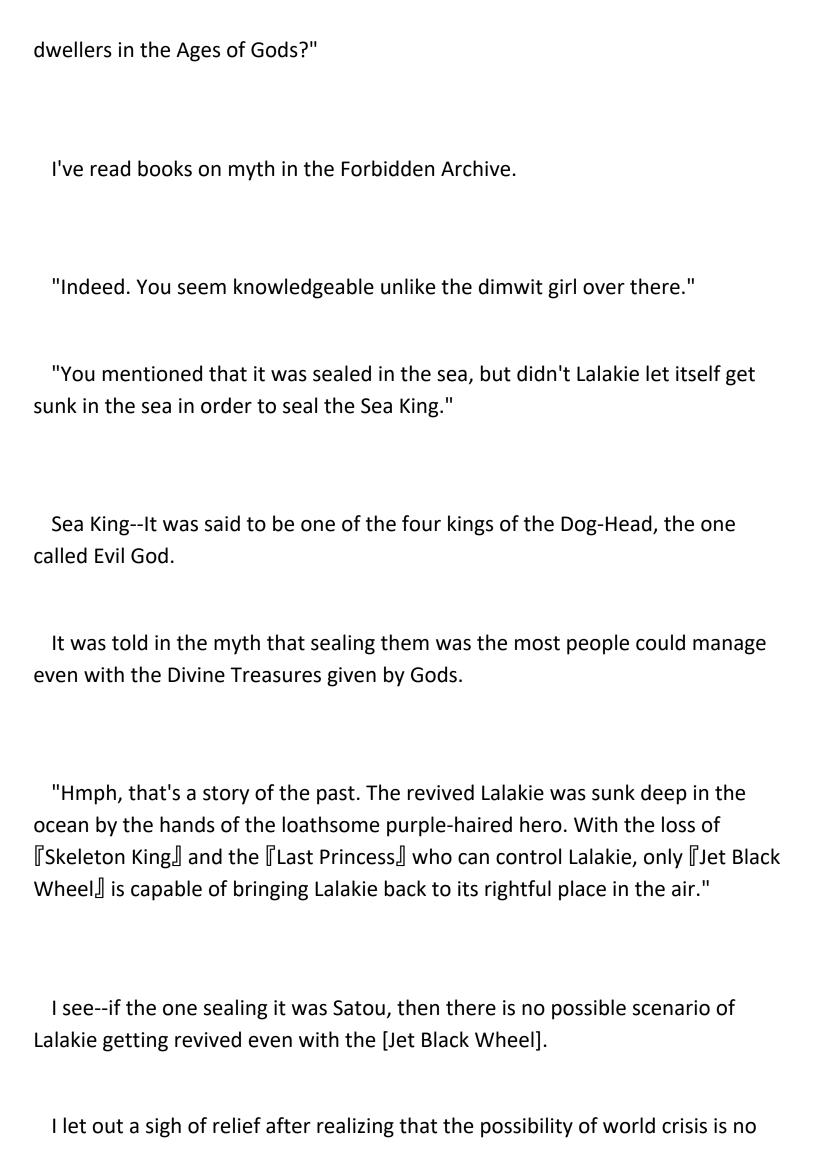
"Allow me to smoothen your mouth a littlekill all of them except the temple head."
As they swing their swords down, they get close toward the miko and the high ranking priests as fast as a warrior that's using Twinkling Movement.
There is no need for me to issue an order to the True Steel Wolves that are standing by beside me.
Because
"KARINA KIIIIIIIIIIIICK!"
A golden wind flew past me.
Karina-sama who rushed out at a speed rivaling even Liza mows down the four black clothes in one blow.
"Blue holy lightYou're, Hero of Parion!"
The black clothed man who was giving orders shouted at Karina-sama.





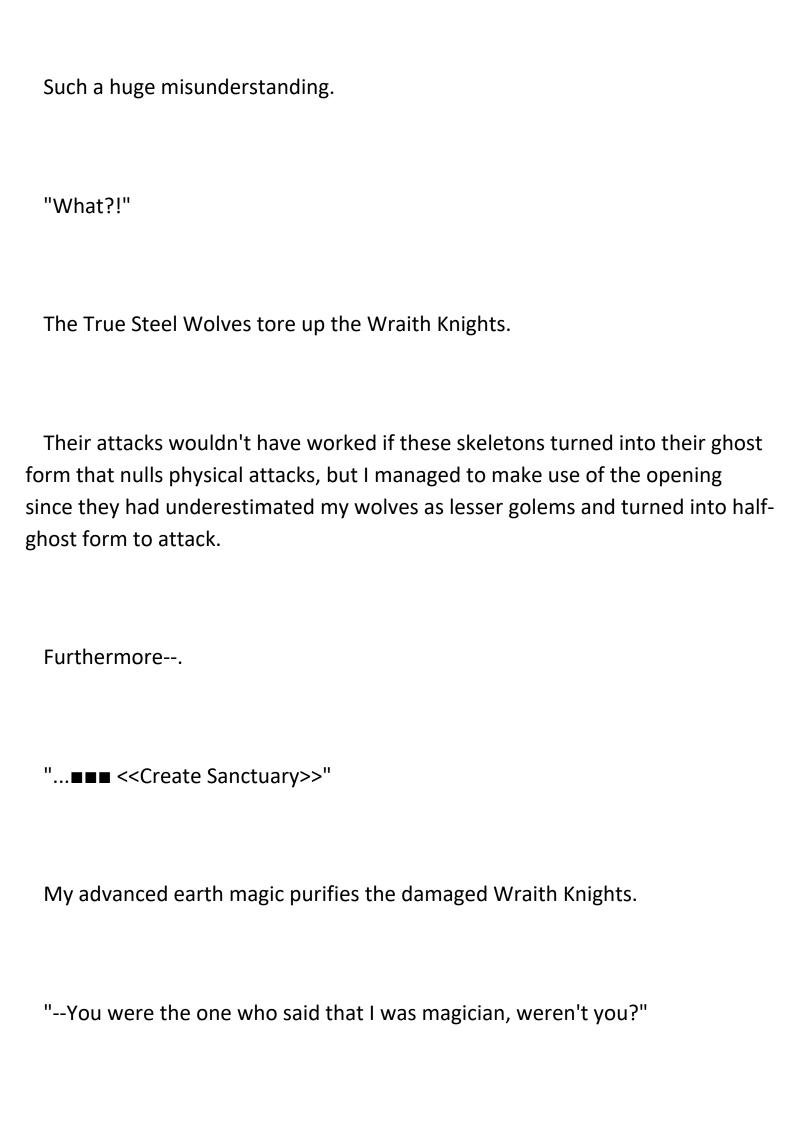
According to the Appraisal Spectacles, the Death Lord's name is [Skeleton Archduke]
Satou has told me that the man with [Skeleton Archduke] title on the pirate fleet was a fake, and this Death Lord should be capable enough to rule over mid-class demons.
We can probably safely assume that this is the real one.
"And what would you do if you get your hands on the Golden Wheel?"
The Skeleton Archduke isn't answering my question.
He's just glaring with eyes concealed with [Fear].
"Oh, I know!"
Karina-sama struck an unusual pose while speaking in a cheerful tone.
It seems to be an arranged version of Pochi and Tama's [Shupi] pose.

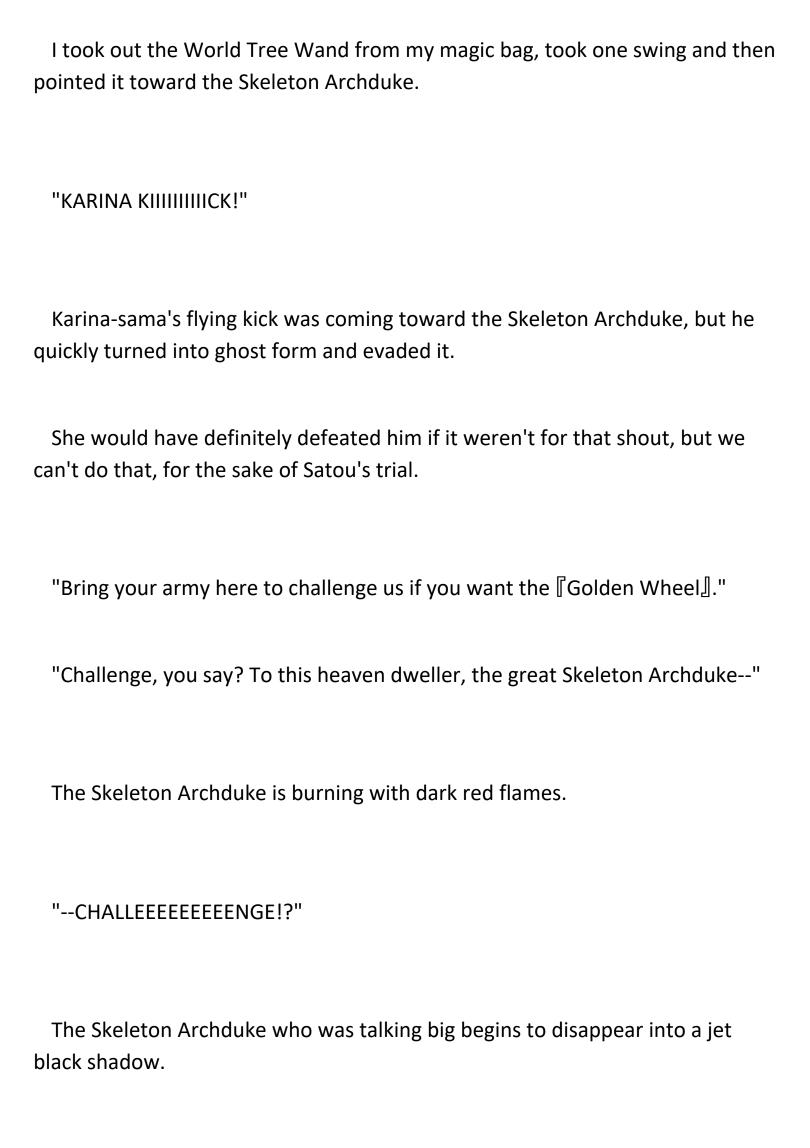


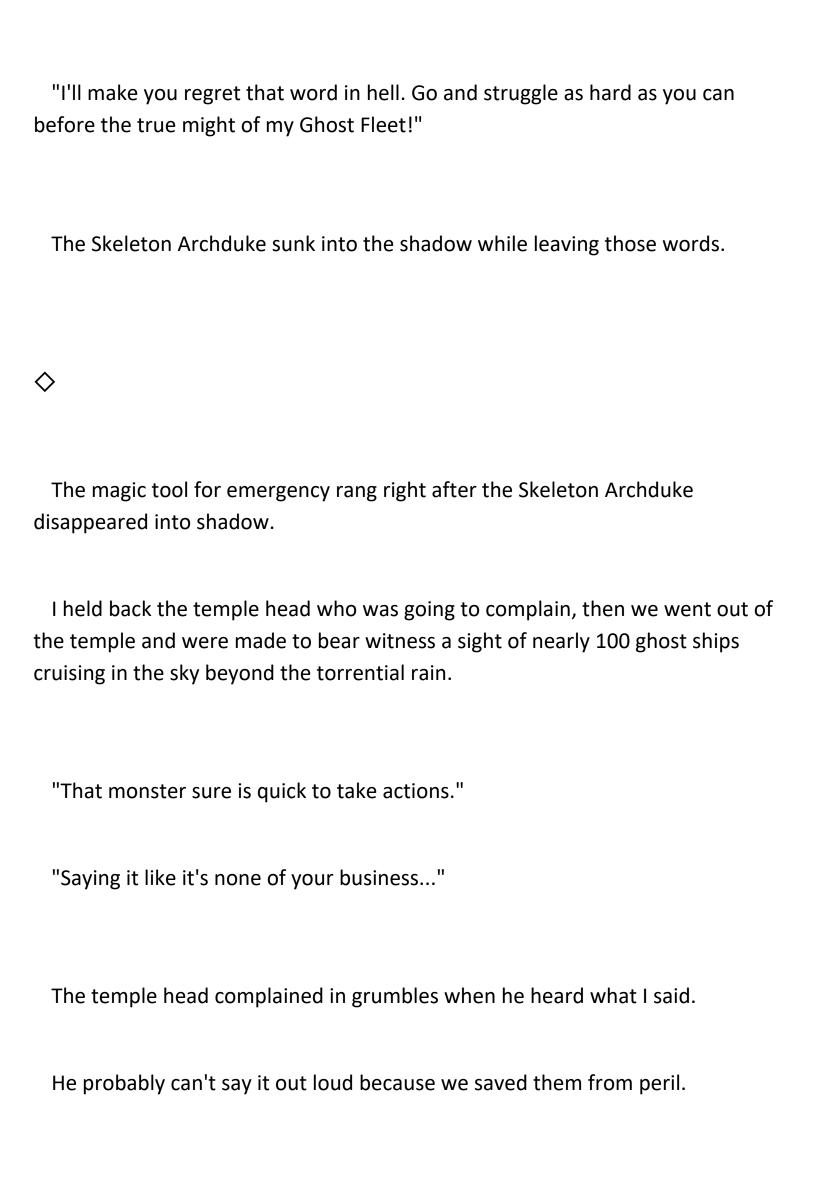


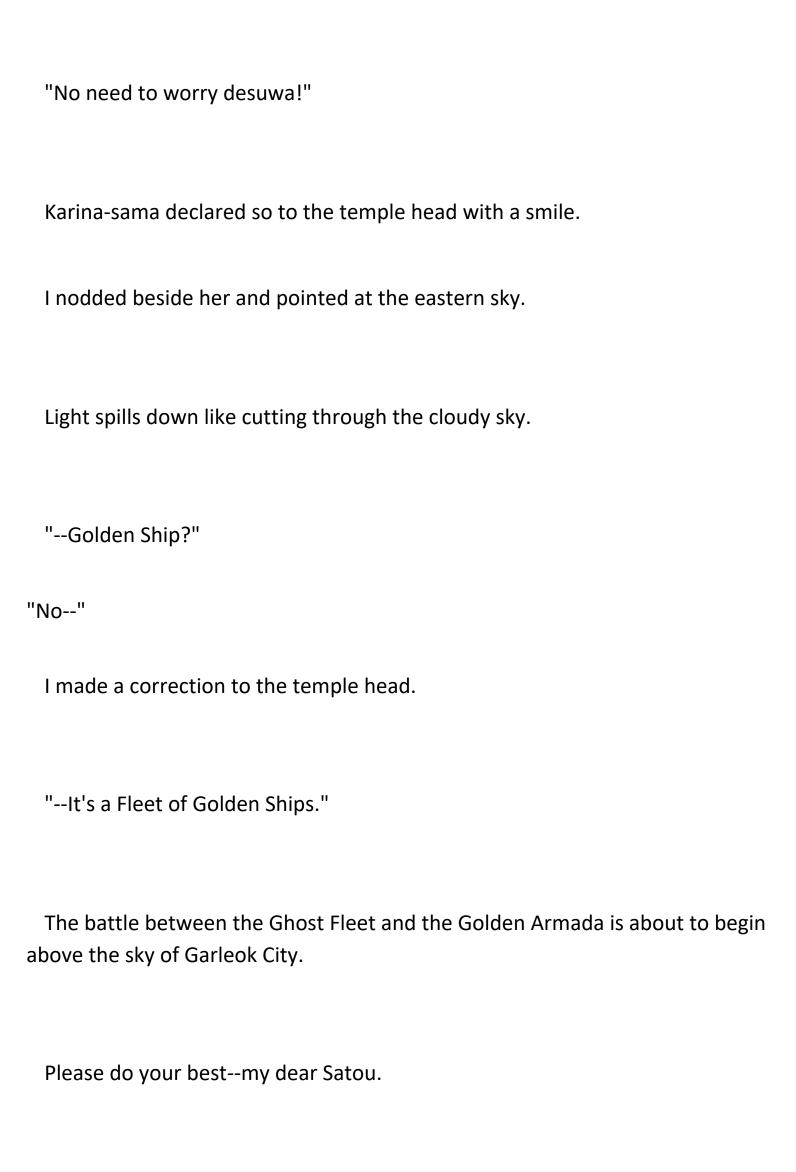












16-33. Garleon Union (9)

Satou here. I'm not sure if it's because simulation games come from war board games, but I just love world war II war games even on home consoles. I mean, simulation games about warring state period always end up turning bothersome due to the domestic affair stuff to me.



[I'll be right there Mia. Have the airship land in a safe zone.]

I was told that a Ghost Fleet led by Skeleton Archduke has appeared above Garleok City's sky.

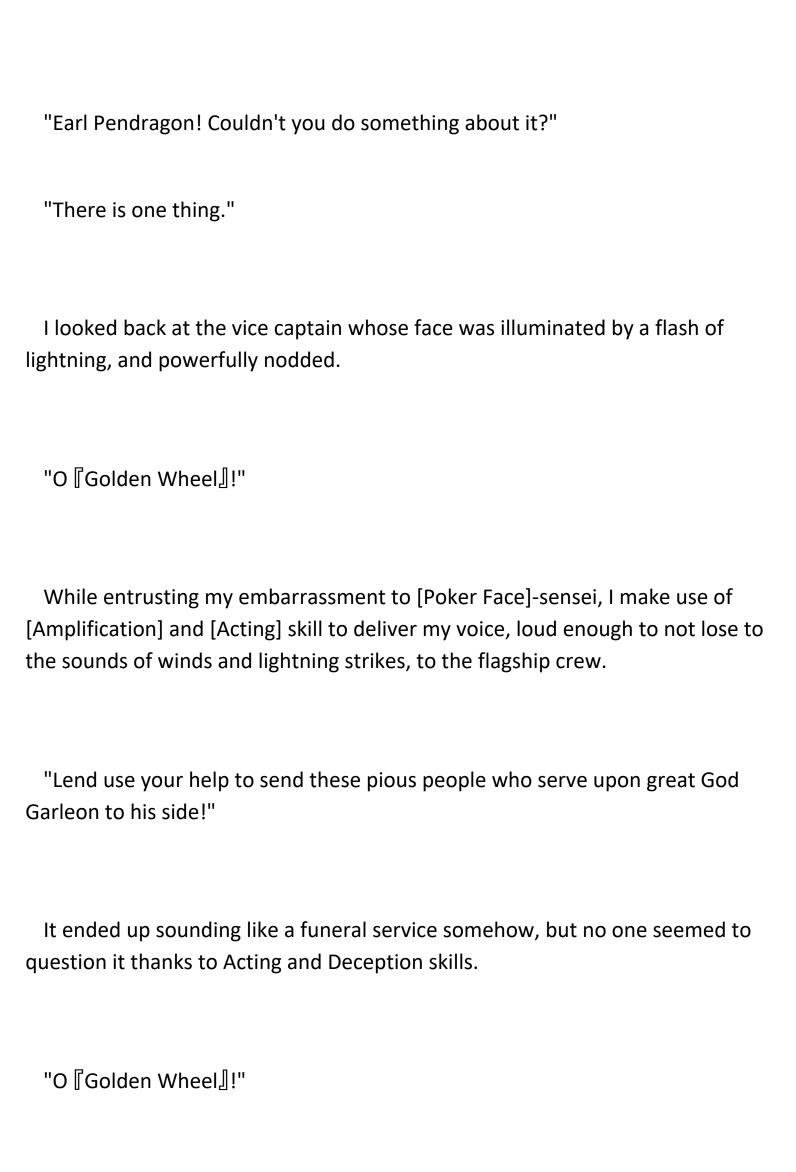
According to the Map's marker column, Lady Karina and Princess Sistina seem to be in Garleon Temple on the ground, but these two should be fine without me hurrying to rescue them.

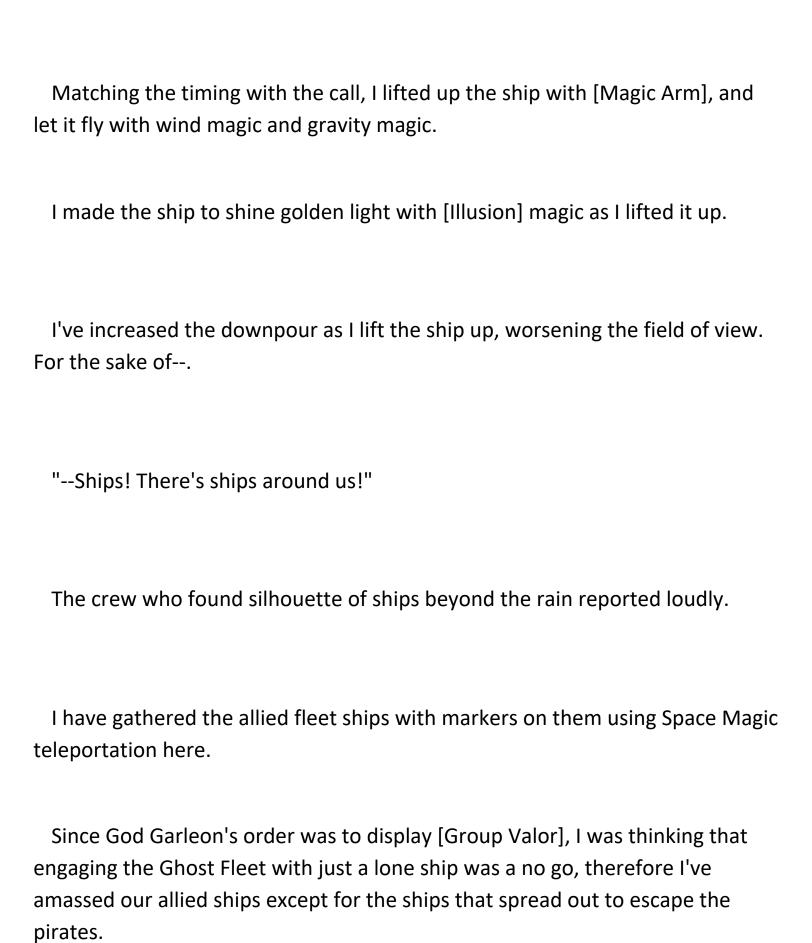
Now then, going back by sailing would take too much time.

That said, I can't go about abandoning the Allied Fleet either.

I decide to slightly alter the plan.







That's still only 10 ships though.

Since the Ghost Fleet seems to have more than 100 ships in their ranks, the power gap is a bit too large. Thus, by making use of the poor visibility, I make the golem fleet that I've created beforehand to join us. For now, having around 50 of them with us should be enough to make it look like a fleet vs fleet battle. "Earl Pendragon, we're surrounded by unfamiliar warships!" "Please be at ease. They're our allies. By the guidance of the Golden Wheel, God Garleon ships have been gathered here." With the help of Deception skill, I convinced the officer that the warships are our allies. Of course, my mana is running low after this much brute forcing, so I've taken a mana supply magic tool out of the Storage into my palm, and get replenishment from it. "S-ships, flying in the sky?"

The temple knight commander-san who went down with a seasick right after

our departure crawled out of the cabin.

I wasn't sure if it was acceptable for a knight commander of a maritime nation, but since his day job usually involves protecting the temple, I guess there's no particularly huge problems in being weak with ships.

"It's a miracle by the great God Garleon!"

I declared powerfully.

Conclusive words are more persuasive in times like this.

As people's gratitudes and prayers probably have to reach God Garleon to fulfill his order, this method should be good.

"Hear me! Soldiers of Garleon Union!"

Toward the captains and crew of the consort ships who still hadn't caught up with the situations, I told them about the stuff imparted to me by the [Golden Wheel] and it being an oracle, about the crisis looming over Garleok City, and that we're now going on a rescue mission.

"Let us charge forward, soldiers! Lead our way, O [Golden Wheel]!"

People eyes are gathered at the enlarged vision of the [Golden Wheel] I created with [Illusion] magic in front of the ship, and on top of that, I create a teleport gate ahead of it.

I make the enlarged illusion to shoot out a laser-like beam of light from the center to shine on the teleport gate, and make the gate itself to be glittering with light particles.

This much needlessly flashy show should be good enough to make it look like a [God's Miracle].

Since I'm used to making this kind of theatrical plays when I was developing events in my game development day, imagining this was relatively simple.

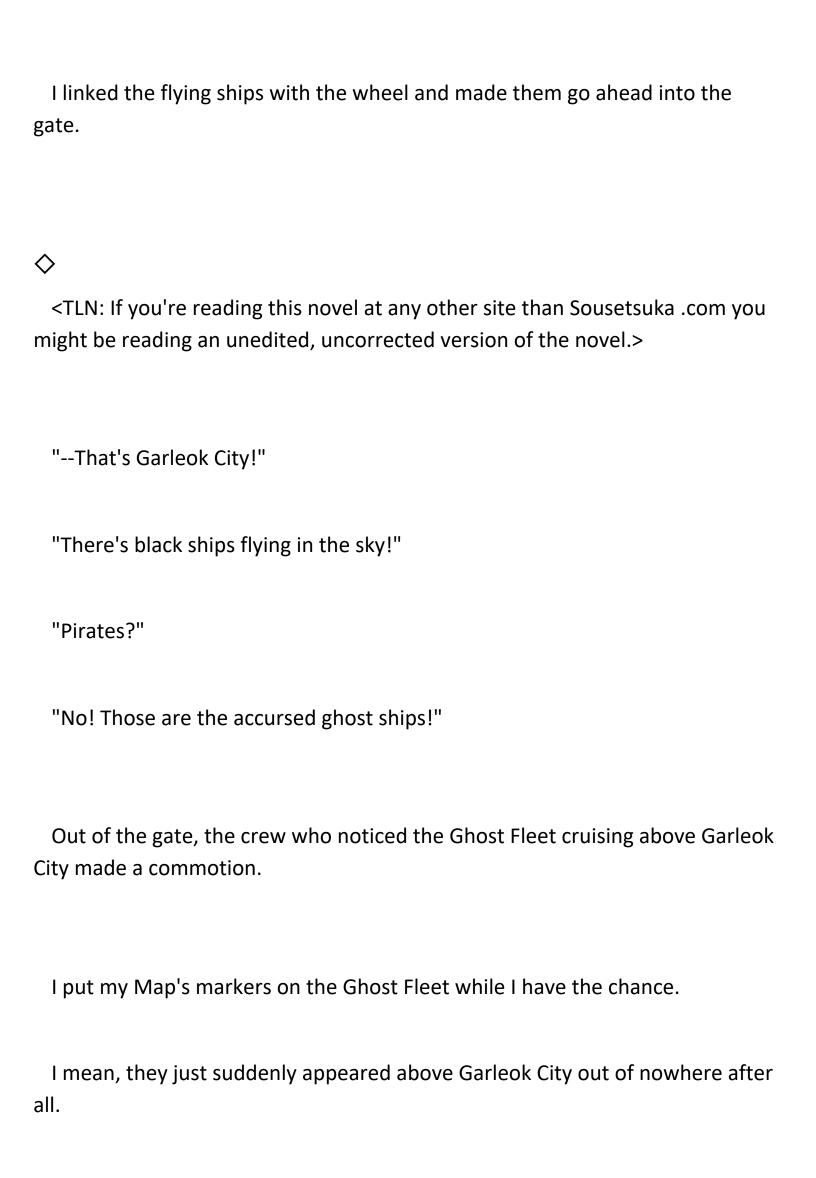
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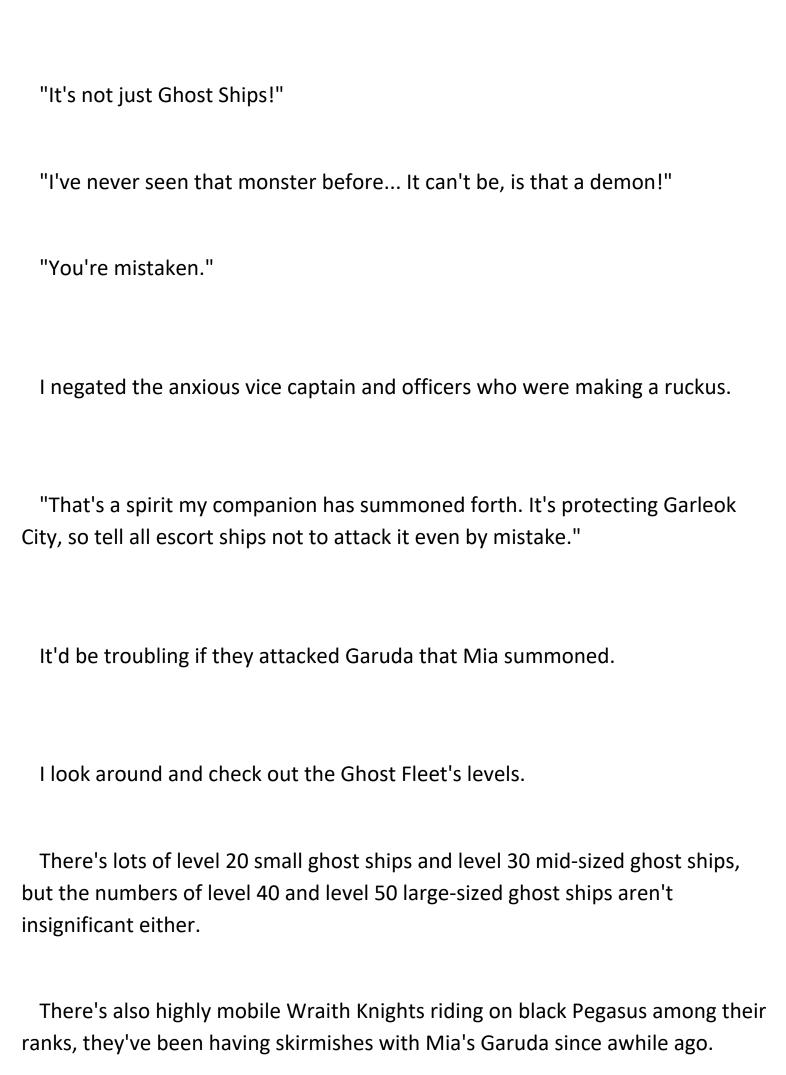
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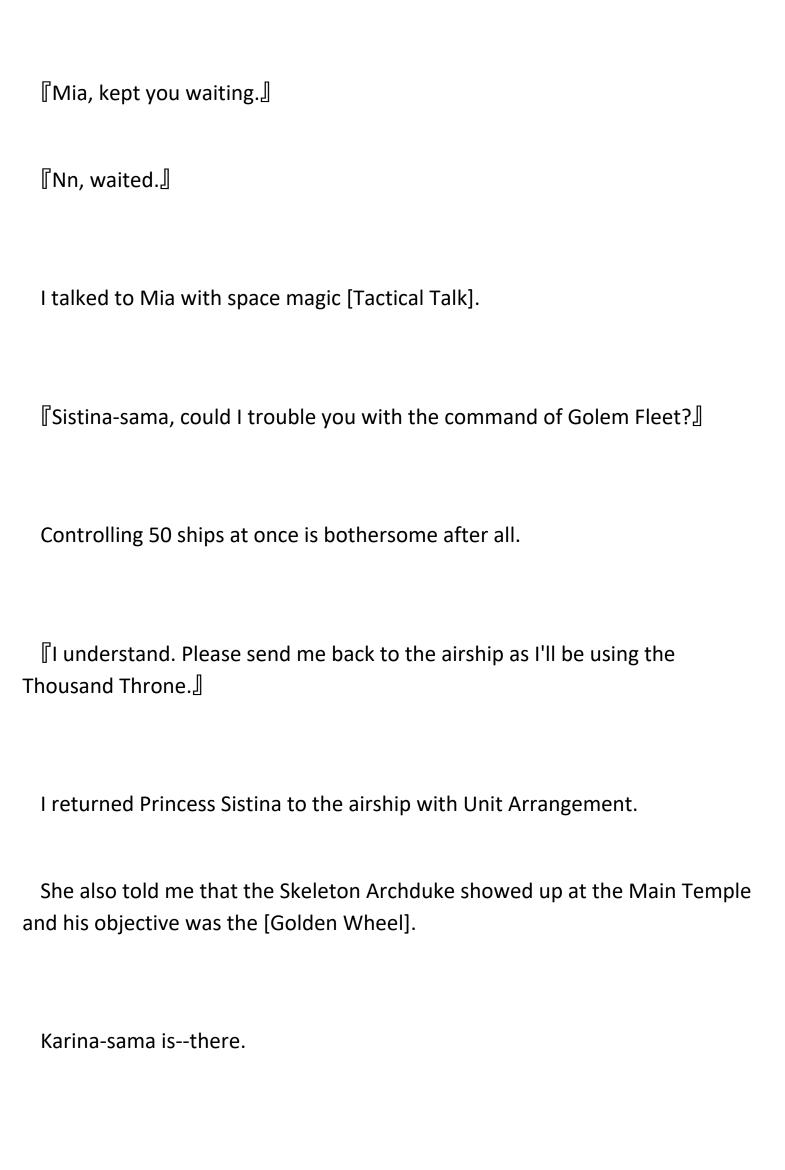
"""GLORY TO GOD GARLEON!"""

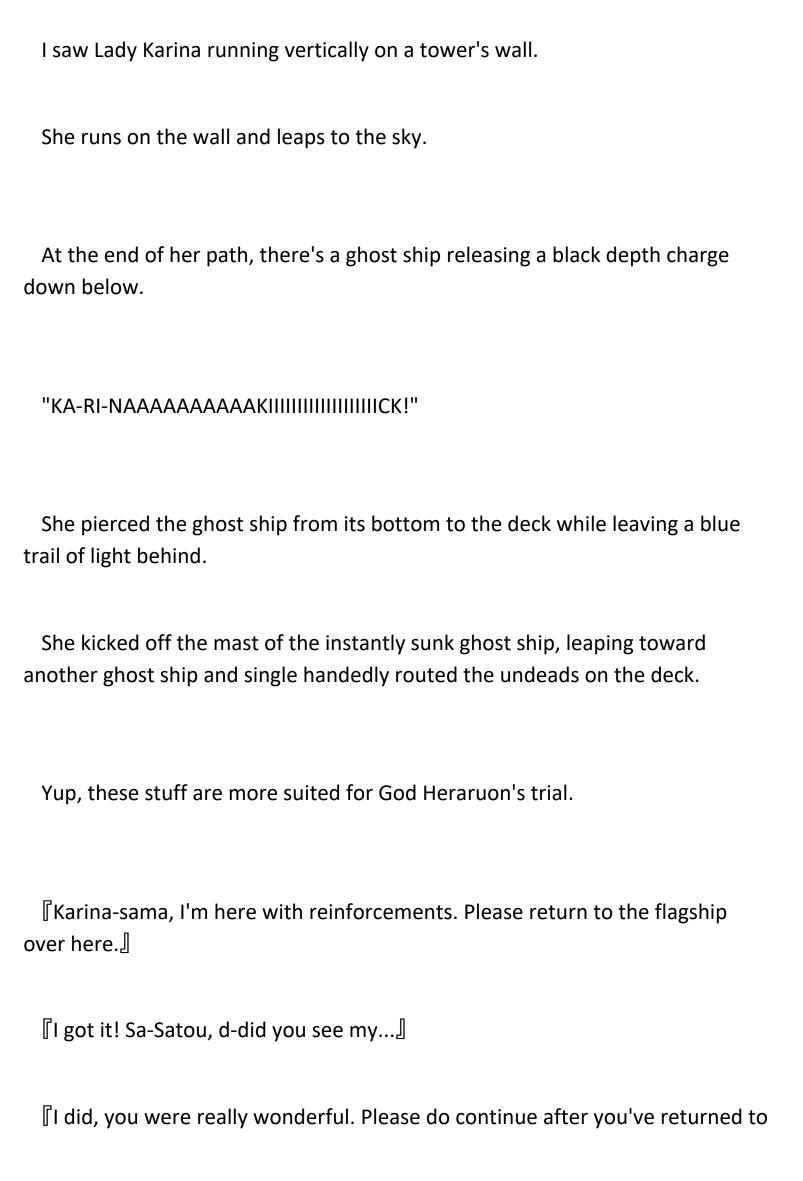
"""GOD IS UPON US!"""

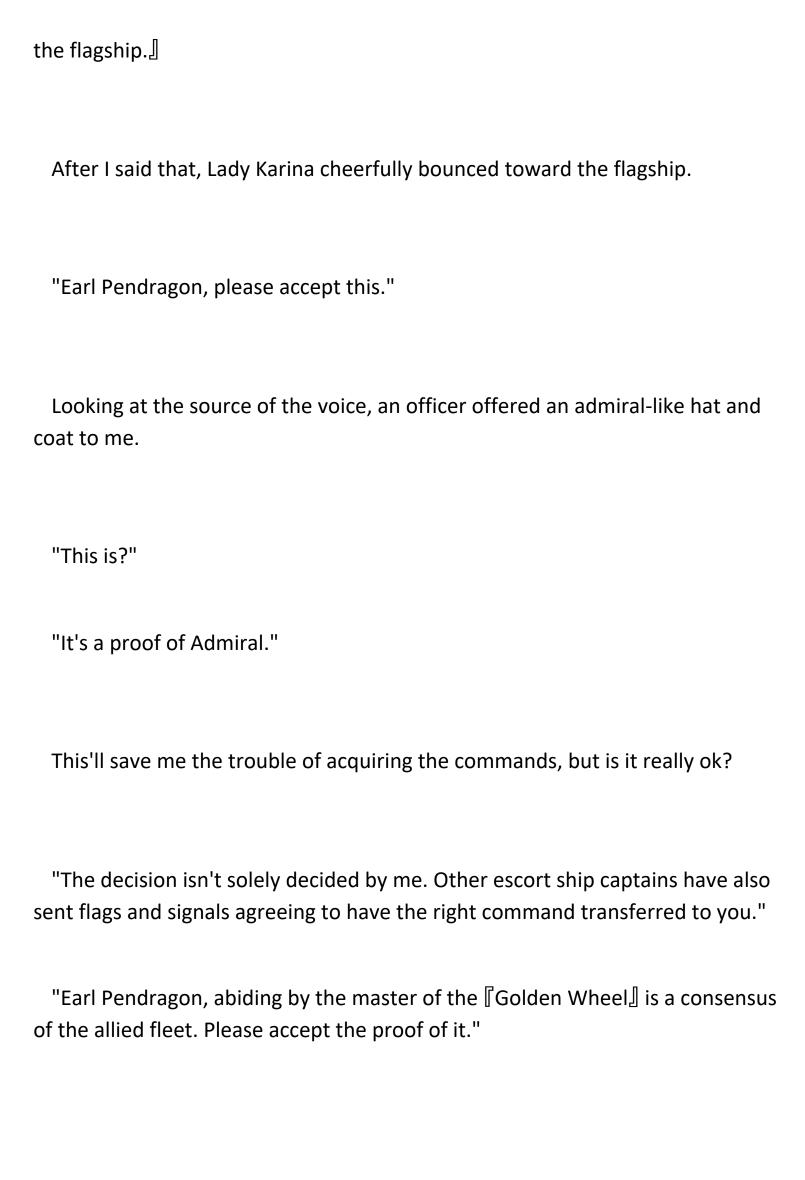
It seems to be [Super Effective] on the pure Garleon Union's people, their tensions are reaching sky high.

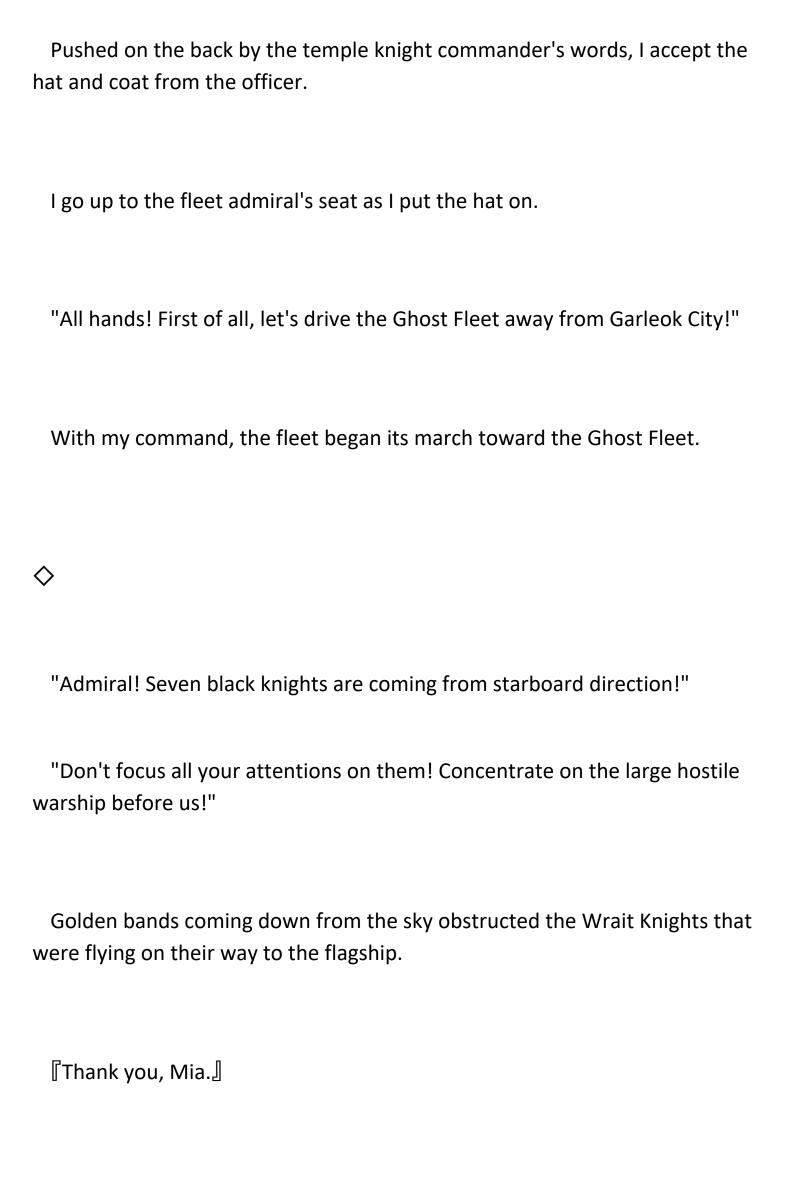


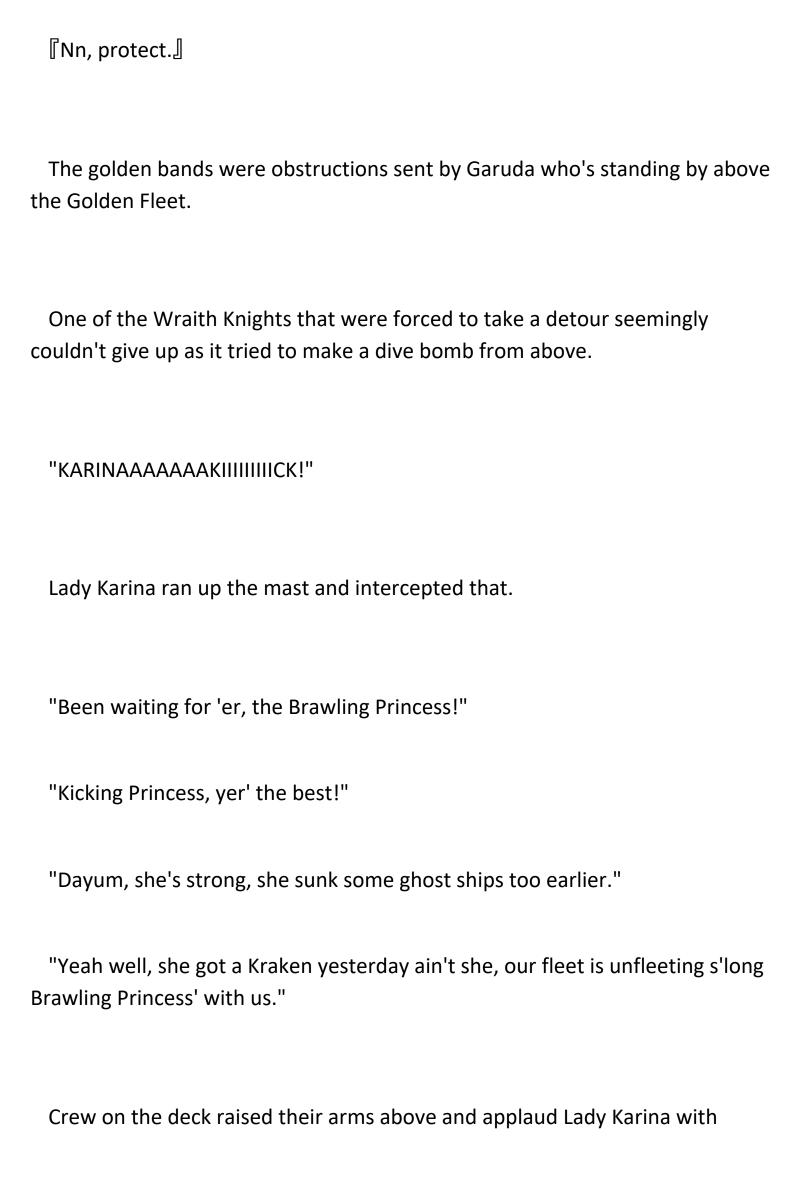












nicknames, like Brawling Princess and Kicking Princess. Putting that aside, the last one with the bad pun was being ignored, he looked so lonely. "Dem vertical roll's amazing--it ain't getting messy even tho' she moved around that much, how'd that even work." "The heck's with ya! The awesome one's definitely that chest of hers!" "True, I want her be my wife." Looks like there isn't an insignificant number of people who are getting distracted by silly stuff. "Great~?" "As expected of Karina nanodesu." Tama and Pochi who showed up from my shadow are cheering Lady Karina on with folding fans written with [Victory] and [Friendship] in their hands. We could have easily annihilated the Wraith Knights if we borrowed these two's power, but that wouldn't count as a display of [Group Valor].



Fortunately, all other ships besides the main 10 are Golem Ships in our fleet, thus we can safely ignore damage on our fleet by making use of that fact.

And besides, pretending to be caught in a trap only to turn it around sounds like it'll be more popular with the civilians.



"Admiral, we're getting surrounded."

"This should be far enough."

We've succeeded luring the Ghost Fleet away from Garleok City's sky.

This position is perfect as it can be seen from Garleok City yet won't damage the city.

"Kuha, kuhahahaha--foolish mongrels! I shall grant you a peaceful death if you promptly hand over the [Golden Wheel]! Or perhaps, you prefer eternal servitude... Kuha, kuhahahaha!"

We could hear the Skeleton Archduke's declaration of victory from a





[Follow after my ship!]

I gave an order with [Amplification] skill, and smoothly control the ship toward a gap in the Ghost Fleet's encirclement that I perceived.

"Rapid fire mana blasts desuwa!"

Looks like she's defaulting to overkilling with Magic Edge Cannons, since her Karina Kick would end up in her falling to sea.

It's probably an advice from Tama and Pochi who are peeking out of her shadows.

[Tama]

[Yes~?]

[Could I ask you to do something?]

[Okay~?]

[Pochi wants to do it too nodesuyo!]

[Then, it's an errand for you two.]

I ask Cat Ninja Tama and Dog Hero Pochi to take care of advertising in the city.

Mainly to spread news that the Golden Fleet is God Garleon's miracle.

While I was doing such backdoor dealings, Lady Karina managed to wrench open a hole in the Ghost Ship encirclement.

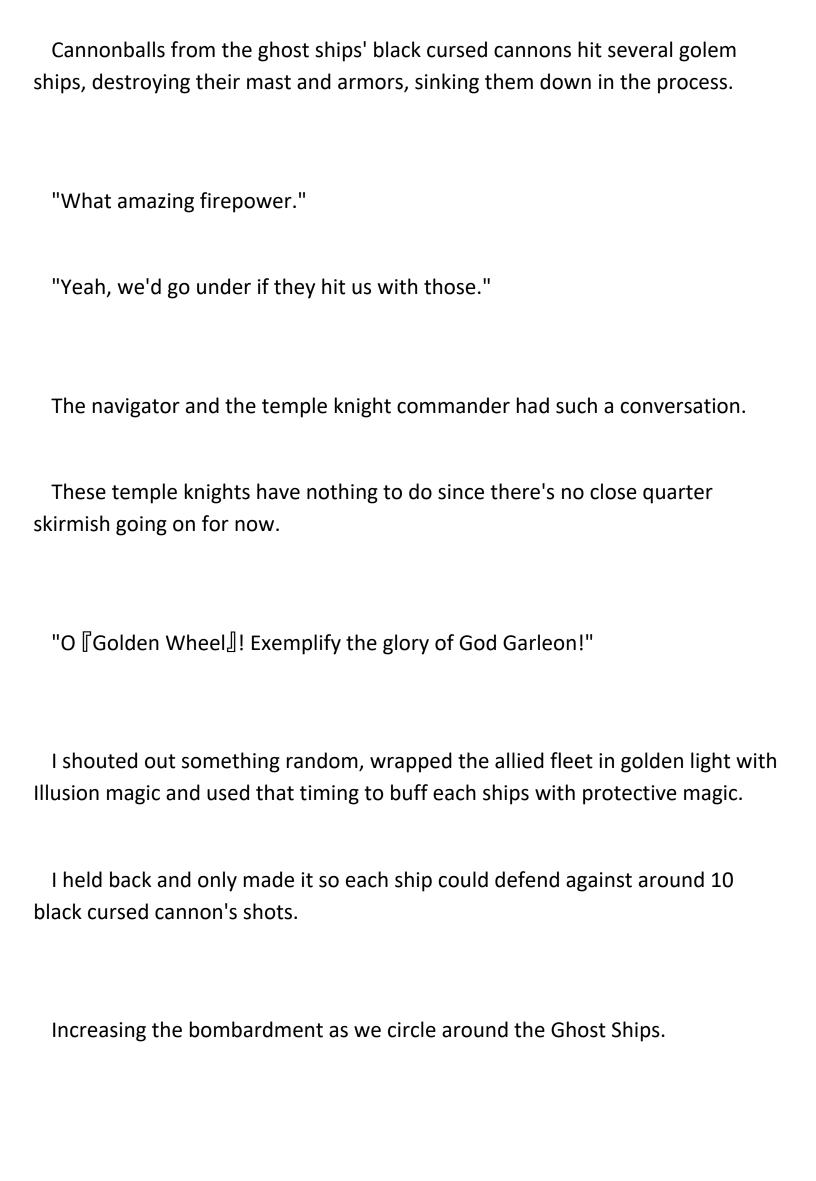
The ghost ships begin to scramble in a hurry, but every ship gets in the way of every other ship, they cannot steer their ships well it seems.

"Push back the enemy fleet with the column formation! Keep firing the mana cannons as we head outside the encirclement! Focus on hostile ships that are going for the flagship!"

Following my order, our fleet is encircling the ghost fleet in a long thin formation, shooting volleys of mana cannons toward the ghost fleet all the while.

As mana cannons aren't enough against mid-class and large-class ghost ships, I finished those off with [Explosions] after they were hit enough times.

Of course, it can't be a one-sided offensive.





It'd be nice and easy if this stays until the end--

"--Looks like things won't go that well."

While muttering that, I glared at the only ship that had changed its course; the Skeleton Archduke's flagship.

16-34. Garleon Union (10)

Satou here. It's quite hard to produce results that can make the client 100% satisfied. That is because, oftentimes, what the client said is not everything there is to it to their demand; their true demand lies implied beyond their words.



"Admiral Pendragon, look at that!"

The navigator called for my attention with a desperate look on his face. Right when the tide had almost completely turned to our favor at the coastal waters of Garleok City, a gigantic ghost ship charged forward alone toward our ship, the fleet's flagship.

"It has the Skeleton Archduke flag on it!"

This seems to be a ploy by the Skeleton Archduke.

"I am Heaven Dweller, I know no defeat!"

The gigantic ghost ship opened its bow like a shark and then several ships flew out of it.

Those ships look familiar.

"-Pirate ships?"

"Admiral, those are the pirate ships we fought with!"

"There are some Union's escort's ships too!"

It's just as the first mate and officers said, the ships that came out of the gigantic ghost ship's mouth belonged to the pirate fleet and the escort fleet.

The fake Skeleton Archduke young man is on board of the leading pirate ship.

"What sinister looks..."

And those ships have all been turned into ghost ships.

The fake Skeleton Archduke seems to be muttering grudges with hollow eyes.

"This is the power of Skeleton Archduke...."

Voices filled with fear leak out of the flagship crew.

This could get a bit bad if it kept up.

"KARINAKIIIIIIIIIICK!"

Lady Karina who has accomplished her duty on the front lines unleashed a flashy diving kick from the sky toward the pirate ghost ships.

Then it pierced through not one, not two but three ships all at once.

Really, this scene looks similar to one from a classic masterpiece anime.

Eventually, Lady Karina sunk into the ocean while leaving a huge water column behind.

Looks like she did the kick without thinking what to do at the end.

That really is like Lady Karina.

"Splaa~sh"

"Oh no nanodesu! Karina is drowning nodesuyo!"

The two who were done with their propaganda work showed their face from my shadow as they gazed at the water column Lady Karina created.

"Sorry, but could you help collect Karina-sama for me?"

"Nininin~?"

"Pochi will go to nodesu!"

As my [Magic Hand] can't reach that far, I ask Tama and Pochi to deal with the rescue.

"W00000000!"

"Kicking Princess went and did it!"

Lady Karina's reckless abandon quickly raised the flagship crew morale.

[Cull?]

[Yea, please do.]

I gave my approval to Mia's suggestion.

Now that the morale is high, let's cull out the majority of the pirate ghost ships with Garuda's finishing move.

It may not conform with God Garleon's order, but faith and prayers to God Garleon should have increased enough after this much, and most importantly, we'd be heading straight to a battle with underwater undeads if this continued on.

[Tempest]

The golden feathers of Garuda fly around as they cut up the pirate ghost fleet everywhere.

That's what I call a big haul.

"-Hostile on starboard!"

The navigator suddenly shouted.

Looks like the gigantic Ghost Ship is trying to forcefully push its way through Tempest and ram us.

I won't let you!

A golem ship controlled by Princess Sistina got in the way of the gigantic Ghost Ship, but due to the huge difference in mass, the golem ship got hit on the side by the gigantic ramming horn and sunk.

Though, thanks to that, our ship narrowly avoided the ramming horn and managed to avoid getting sunk despite the intense sparks produced from the colliding ship's flank.

"You lots, attack!"

Ghost sailors with scimitars in their hands are surging onto the flagship (ours).

"Filthy undeads! Extolled at Garleon Temple, I-"

The Temple Knight Commander gleefully intercepted them while naming himself. Since this seems to be the final clash, I also draw my Fairy Blade and intercept the undead next to the Temple Knight Commander.

"You must be the [Golden Wheel] master!"

Skeleton Archduke carrying a bluish black adamantite rapier let out a thrust

toward the Temple Knight Commander.

Looks like he mistook the Commander for me.

"You must be the ringleader!"

Temple Knight Commander's mithril sword clad in Magic Edge blocked a black string-like thing.

That black string comes from the Skeleton Archduke's shadow.

Since the Archduke doesn't seem to be a reincarnated person, he must have used a Shadow Veil lurking in his shadow.

I observe their fight while kicking and slashing the incoming Bone Knights with my Fairy Sword.

"Nuu"

Skeleton Archduke's rapier went for the kinks in commander's armor faster than the commander could back step.

However, that rapier was blocked by a protective film created by holy magic that Knight Commander used.

"Hmph, holy magic huh!"

The Skeleton Archduke groaned, and then a crowd of beast-like Ghoul appeared behind him, and came rushing down the Temple Knight Commander.

"You damn coward!"

"Ridiculous! I'm merely punishing a lowborn, knightly etiquette have no place here!"

Skeleton Archduke laughed off the commander's protest.

Well then, that means it's fine for me to intervene too.

"Let me help."

I flashed the Fairy Sword and turned the Ghouls back into corpses one after another.

"Gununu, are you a knight serving the [Golden Wheel] master!"
"No, I'm that master in the flesh."

I take out the [Golden Wheel] from my bosom and let the Skeleton Archduke take a peek on it.

"HANDITOVEEEEEEER"

Skeleton Archduke is lunging at me along with a suspicious looking black aura.

I exchanged swords with Skeleton Archduke while jumping around left and right decks of the gigantic ghost ship and the flagship, scattering red and black sparks all the while.

After a few hundreds clashes, Skeleton Archduke stopped and opened his mouth while striking a weird pose.

"You measly aboriginal mongrel, how dare you fight on par with this strongest swordsman of Lalakie with a sword!"

"Don't think my birthplace has anything to do with my skills with swords though." "Silence! Die by my sword, lowborn!"

Skeleton Archduke is enraged while moving suspiciously.

"-Phantom Rampage!"

He unleashed a buckshot like multi-stab attack clad in dark red aura. Looks like his queer pose earlier was the initial move of his finisher.

With the fairy sword in hand, I duteously parry all the stabs of what seems to be the Skeleton Archduke's finisher.

Man, the sparks are dazzling.

This should be a good time to lower the veil of this battle.

"This cannot be! A savage's bastard sword parrying my blade, me a Heaven Dweller?!"

Well, I think even Liza and Tama could do it.

Anyway.

-It's a checkmate.

I sheathe my sword back after one final slash.

"Why are you sheathing your sword? Have you realized that you're no match for me?"

Skeleton Archduke dubiously posed a question as the red light inside his eyes flickered.

"Have you not noticed yet?"

Skeleton Archduke's body begins to crumble into black ash, starting from his fingertips and body surface.

And below his feet, splinters of a broken red magic core-.

"T-this is... I, Heaven Dweller promised with eternal life... dying..."

Skeleton Archduke who was looking down on his body lifted his head as red and black light gushed out of his eyes.

"ITSNOTOVERYEEEEEEEEE!"

The shouting Skeleton Archduke charged toward me as a jet black aura wrapped his body.

However, his fingers disappeared into black ash before they could touch me.

"I told you, it's a checkmate."

After muttering something that no one would hear, I look around at the surroundings.

Slightly after the demise of Skeleton Archduke, the gigantic ghost ship crumbled and sunk into the ocean.

Several of the surviving pirate ships attempted to flee, but they were sunk one after another by Magic Edge Cannons of unknown affiliations.

I've put a [Golden Wheel]-like magic circle in front of the place where Pochi and Tama are, it should be alright.

-That's right, all in the hope people believe that everything is [God's Miracle].

"All enemies have been destroyed! This is our victory!"
"""WOOOOOOOO!"""

The fleet crew cheered loudly when I declared our victory.

While I'm at it, I blow away a few dark clouds that hung over the battlefield, and let sunlight peek through them to make it look mystical.

Just to be doubly sure, I projected an illusion of the [Golden Wheel] in the sky once again.

I land the ship at Garleok City's port with that illusion as the backdrop, and return the Golem Ships back to the base using the landing water spray as a diversion.

I'll also teleport people whom I've sheltered on a hill visible from Garleon Temple.

Since it's bothersome, guess I'll also make them go with the pirates I captured?

"Glory to God Garleon!"

"""GLORY TO GOD GARLEON!"""

When we entered the wharf, people who had gathered at the port cheered for God Garleon while I was heading to Garleon Temple with the temple knights as the guard.

Since there were lots of houses that grew flowers in their garden and balcony, we were showered with flower petals until we reached the temple.

Makes me kinda feel like being a hero bridegroom or something.



"Welcome back-God's Trial accomplisher."

When I arrived at Garleon Main Temple, the male miko—Shaman Sauani boy welcomed me.

"Now then, let us report to God."

I don't mind him casually trying to take me to the ceremony room, but I kindly flicked away his hand as he tried to coil it around my waist.

Sauani boy muttered, "you're so cold", but I pretend not to hear it.

Just like with the trial-taking ceremony, I report to God Garleon through Sauani boy.

□Splendid. I bestow you my mark. □

His line was exactly the same as God Heraruon, but voices mixed with irritation and satisfaction, saying, "Overproduction", "Prayers enough", "Scheme lacking", "Faith enough", "Lack tactical reversal" also reached me at the same time, but since my goal is to clear the [God's Trial] and gather the Marks, there's no particular problem here.

- > Title [Garleon's Mark] Acquired.
- > Title [One Approved by Garleon] Acquired.
- > Title [Garleon Saint] Acquired.
- > Title [Garleon Apostle] Acquired.
- > Title [Charade] Acquired.
- > Title [Overproduction] Acquired.
- > Title [Stage Director] Acquired.
- > Title [Poor Schemer] Acquired.

Okay, I know that you can't get behind it, but please don't override the Title system just to show your dissatisfaction.

After a short dialogue with God, I return to my consciousness at the temple. Lights coming down from heavens gather into one and transformed into a gaudy scepter.

I catch it as it slowly falls down.

According to AR readings, it's [Golden Scepter Garleauph], a kind of [Divine Treasures].

Just like [Golden Dagger Heraruseph] I got from God Heraruon that was adorned with a small Sun Stone on the grip, this scepter has a blue gem—Sea God Stone on its tip.

It seems to be a support tool for holy magic.

This would be a good match for Sera, but it's probably a bad idea to let someone who believes in another God to use a Divine Treasure of another God.

"Hee, this is the first time I've seen someone bestowed with a Divine Treasure."

Sauani boy who has come to stares at the scepter in amazement.

"Mind if I touch it?"

"Feel free to."

I offer the scepter to Sauani boy.

He curiously looks at the scepter from all angles.

The other priests and miko(s) around us are prostrating, what a difference.

"Thank you, it's really amazing."

Sauani boy gave back the scepter without a shred of reluctance.

The other priests and miko(s) looking so disappointed makes for an interesting contrast.

"If Garleon Temple wishes to enshrine it, I would love to hand it—"
"Naw, you don't have to. I mean, that's something bestowed to you by God
Garleon, and most importantly, we now know that the Main Temple has the
blessing of the great god Garleon and the invincible [Golden Wheel] divine
treasure from this matter."

-I'm sorry, most of it was my own doing.

I feel a slight guilt to see Sauani boy's refreshing face.

The priests and miko(s) look like they really want it, but since none dares to tell

me to push back Sauani boy, I put the Scepter into my bosom and straight into my Storage.

-Hm?

An image of him clicking his tongue flashed in my mind for an instant, must be my imagination.

I left Garleon Main Temple, enjoyed a banquet held by Garleok City, and departed Garleon Union.

"Sa-Satou! There's something between the clouds!"

Some times after we departed Garleok City's airport, Lady Karina found a black flying object in the horizon.

According to the Map info-.

"That seems to be a Saga Empire airship."

Moreover, it's a large warship type.

Think it's the same shape as the airship that Hero Meiko rode to the Weasel Empire.

Furthermore, a different summoned hero is on board of it.

"Did they perhaps come to save Garleon Union from crisis?" "They might be."

I agree with the princess.

Since demons were involved, it won't be weird if heroes are mobilized. There's probably no way Saga Empire would go on an aggression with the heroes leading.

After observing the situation for a bit, I change the airship course toward our destination.



"Here's your souvenirs."

"Uwaa! That's some fresh looking sea bream and octopus!"

"We have oyster and mussel too here."

Garleok City's octopus and shellfish are superb, I'd love to treat the girls and Echigoya Firm peeps with it.

"Did you buy them from the market?"

"Nah, the sea bream was from the mermaids I saved in the iceberg incident."

They went and brought fresh sea bream on the back of dolphins to Garleok City and all.

"How are you going to cook 'em?"

"Sashimi for the sea bream—but it'd get too repetitive if we keep eating that only, so I think I'll make half into carpaccio. As for the oyster—"

"I want it raw!"

Arisa who fears no stomachache raised her hand and insisted.

Well, even if she gets one, we can just cure her with panacea or elixir, so it's all fine.

"Got it. I'll put some ice on the platter to go along with it. Oh and sorry, we're out of lemon, could you get them for me."
"Okay!"

Arisa teleported to the lemon orchard.

"Think we should stay on the safe side and go with paella for the mussel?" "Yes, I'll give it my all!"

I hand over a basket full of shellfish to Lulu and think up the side menu while muttering, "Wonder what I should make next."

"Meat~?"

"Pochi is happy with either fish or shellfish like she is with meat nodesu."

Since the meat lovers Tama and Pochi proposed an amendment, I think about meat dish that goes well with paella.

Meal really is the funnest with your friends.

An urgent message came up in such peaceful times.

"Satou-sama! We've got a contact from Zena-san at Seryuu city—"

Looks like something happened to Zena who was visiting her home.

16-35. Earl Seryuu's Foster Daugther (1)

Satou here. There was this time I was surprised to see the scenery in my hometown changing more than expected when I came back after a long time.

Especially when places you often went to play as a kid turned into a mansion or a skyscraper, feels like your memories have been polluted doesn't it.

 \Diamond

"Master, look over there!"

Arisa who's bending her body forward at the coach seat box shouted out loud while pointing at the megalith formation ahead.

It's a ruin from the era of ancient Orc Empire that looks like three-stranded torii-like stones.

We found it when we began our journey off Seryuu city back then.

"A broken Travel Gate huh.... This takes me back."

We're currently heading to Seryuu City after receiving Zena-san's messages.

After confirming the situations using the Map and through space magic, it didn't seem like an emergency so we decided to go on a wagon like when we departed Seryuu City per Arisa's suggestion.

Only the same members who left Seryuu City back then are coming with me.

Lady Karina wanted to go with us too, but she was dragged somewhere by the princess and Sera, saying that they needed a fitting adjustment for a new dress or something.

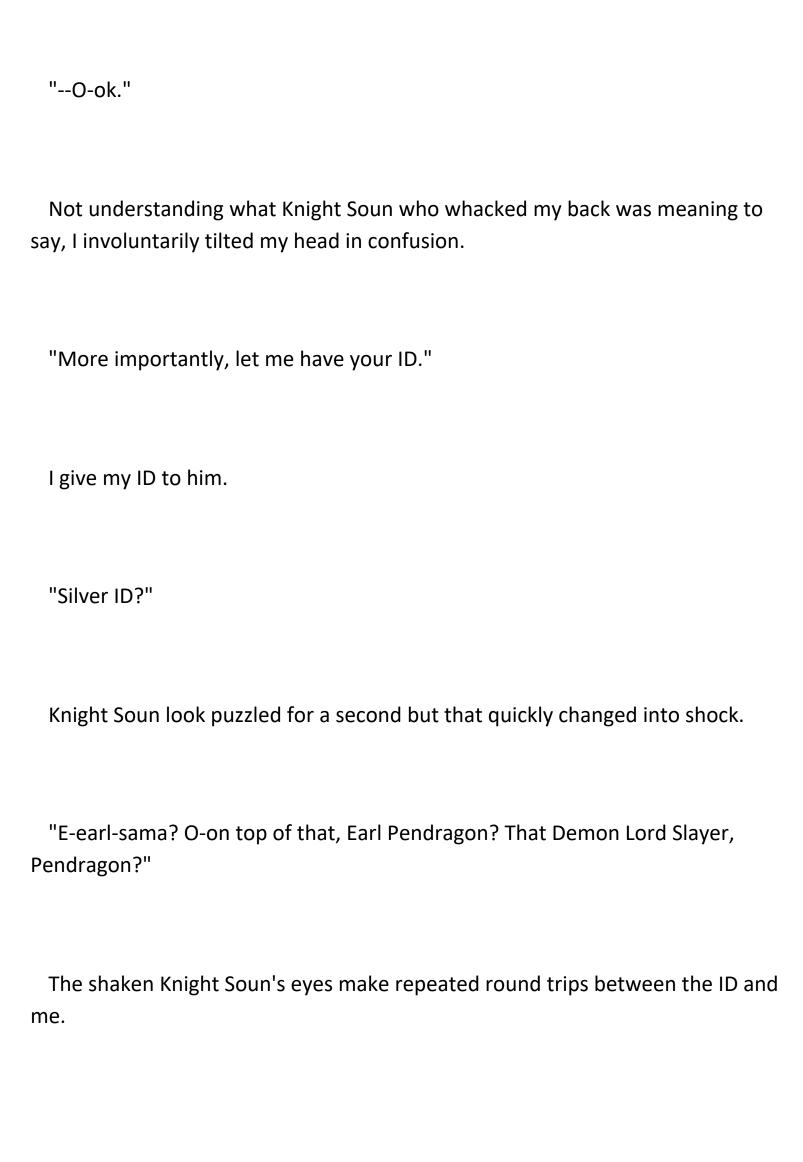
"The way Master now, you could fix it right?"

"Well yeah, I could."

I can fix or even make a new one, but I don't plan to do so for the time being.

A Travel Gate would need a vast amount of mana to activate, and since the mana from Seryuu City's Source is currently being siphoned by the [Devil's Labyrinth], doing so would be bad in many senses.





"--Ah, no. Please excuse my impoliteness. Your excellency Earl Pendragon! Allow me to guide you to the castle!" Knight Soun apologized for his rudeness, sent a gatekeeper to deliver a message to the Earl Castle, and called another gatekeeper to bring his horse here. "No, just send a message there. I still have some business to take care of, I plan to visit the Earl once it's over." I firmly refused Knight Soun who was still trying to guide us, then we brought our wagon to the Gate Inn. The inn that was destroyed by monsters during the Divine Punishment has been completely rebuilt now. "Yuni~?" "There's Yuni here nodesu!" "Eh? Tama-chan? And Pochi-chan too!" Tama and Pochi found the maid Yuni who was sweeping the front door, they jumped off the wagon and ran to her.

"What's wrong Yuni? Why'd you throw your broomSatou-san! Mom, it's Satou-san!"
The Gate Inn's poster girl who came out of the door, Martha-can hugged me as I got off the wagon.
She's still the sameno, she's grown up nicely in the last two years.
It shouldn't be long till she surpasses Gate Inn's landlady (Morta)-san.
"It's been a while, Martha-chan. Did the inn undergo a renovation?"
"Un, many things happened while Satou-san wasn't around. You're staying here right? Let's talk a lot inside!"
Martha-can pulled my arm into Gate Inn.
She's as forceful as always.
"Lulu, please park our wagon in the courtyard. Mia, you can go ahead and greet the Manager if you want to."



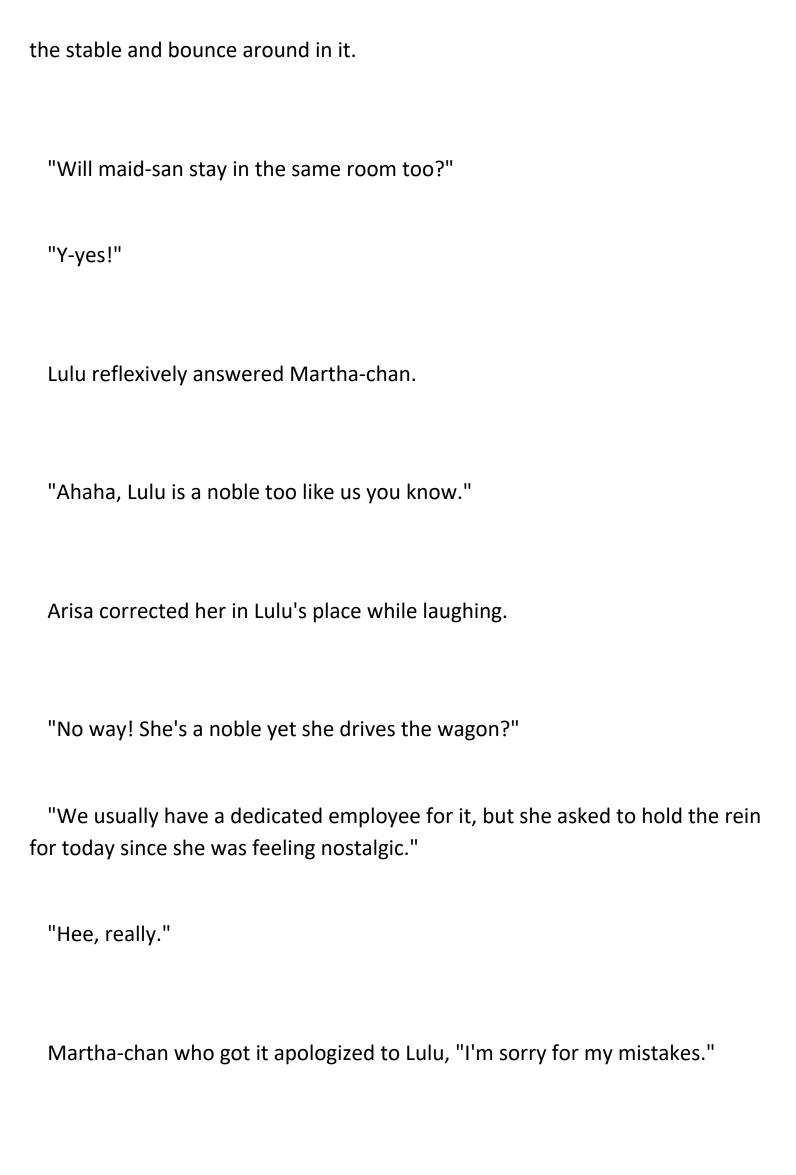


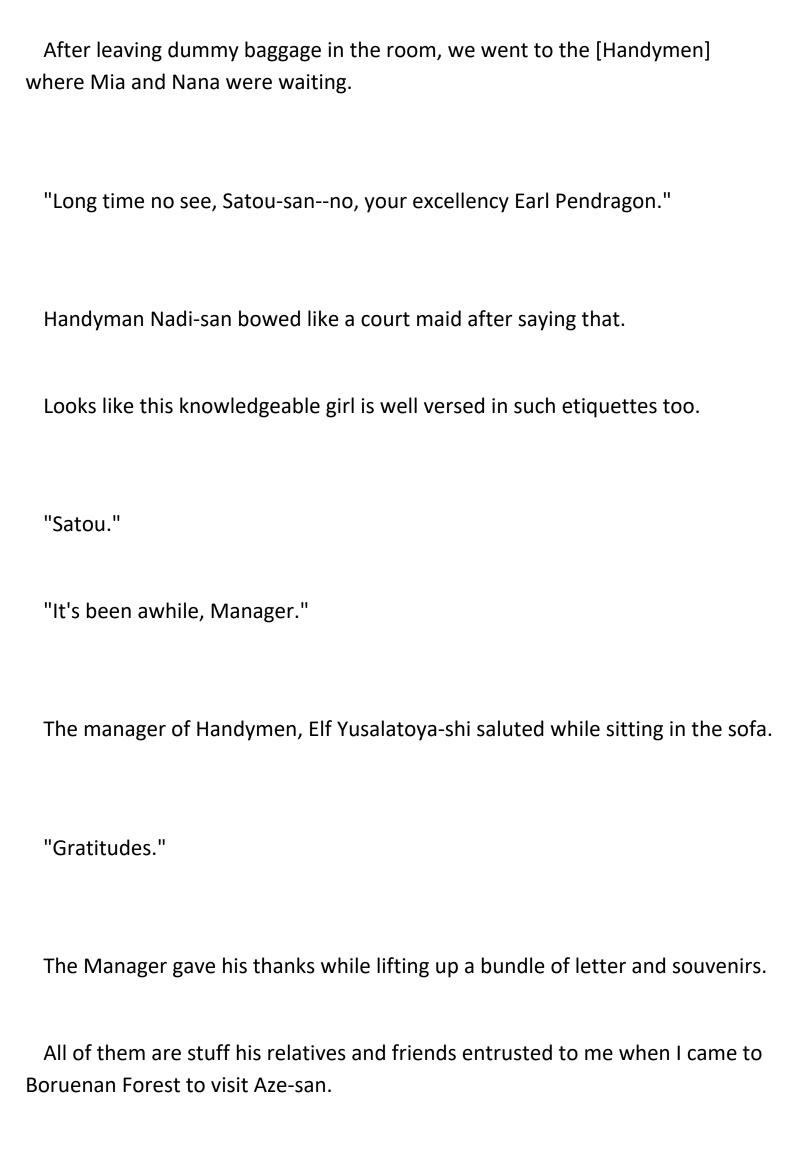


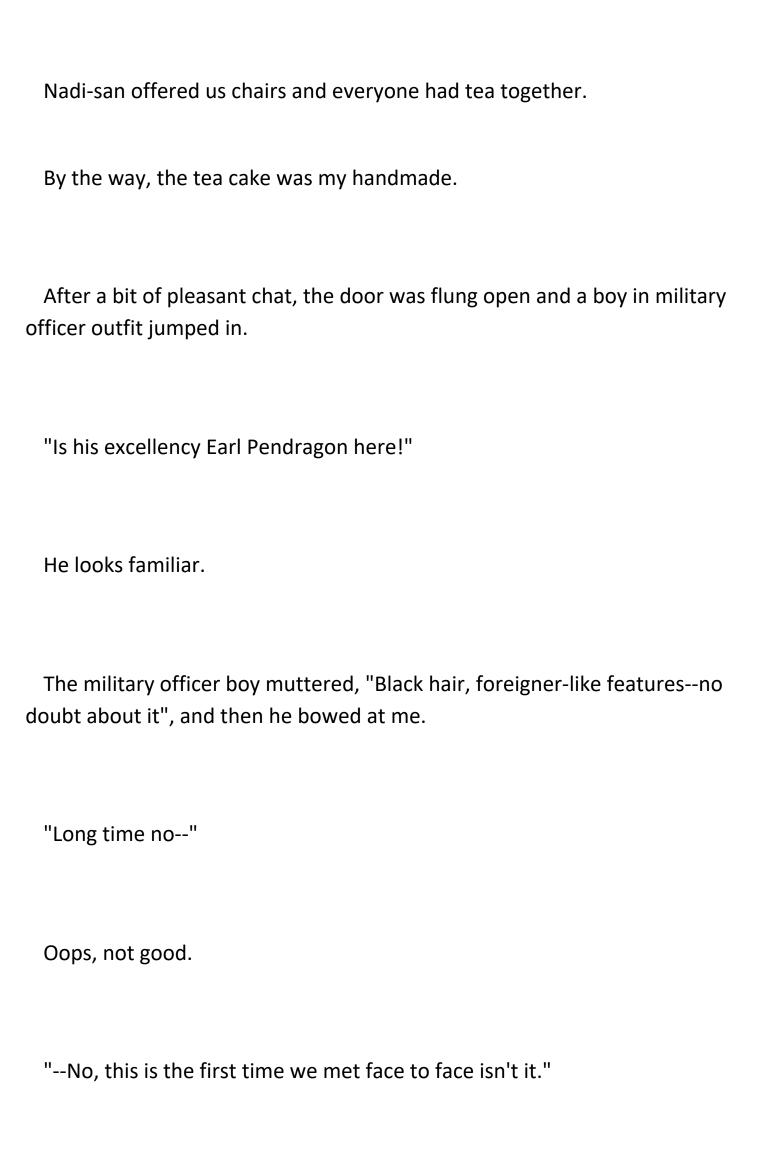




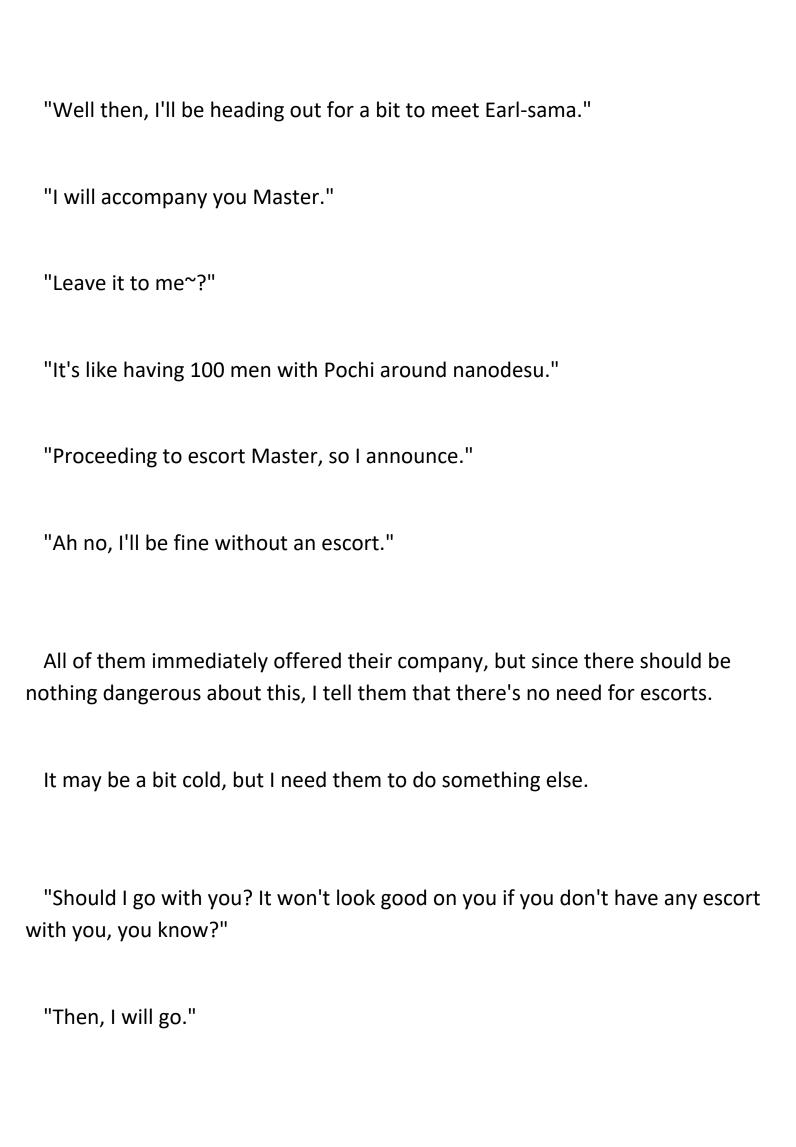












Arisa was right, so I took her and Lulu with me.

Mia looked like she wanted to go too, but since it had been awhile since she met the manager, I told her to stay at the [Handymen] for.

"Now then, let's go."

We got on board an open wagon parked outside the Handymen and I urged Yukel boy who was riding a horse to depart.

Now then, just what is waiting for us at Earl Seryuu's castle.

Judging from my conversation with Zena-san through Telephone, she sounded hesitant about something, so it's probably something to do with either Yukel boy's engagement or Zena-san herself.

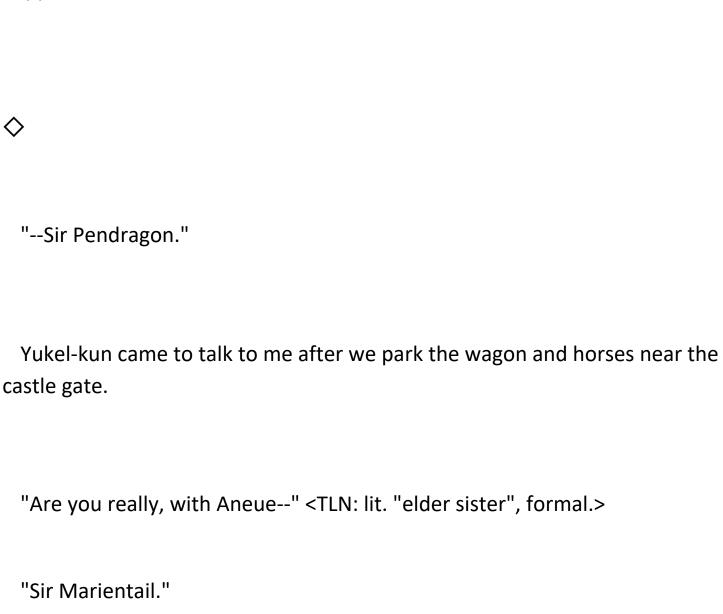
Well since a pointlessly vast amount of capital and authority have been falling my way lately, I can generally guess what it is about, and I won't hesitate to use them if it's for the sake of my friend, Zena-san and her family.

It'd be nice if it's something simple and easy to solve though.

I muttered quietly while looking up at Earl Seryuu's castle that had come into

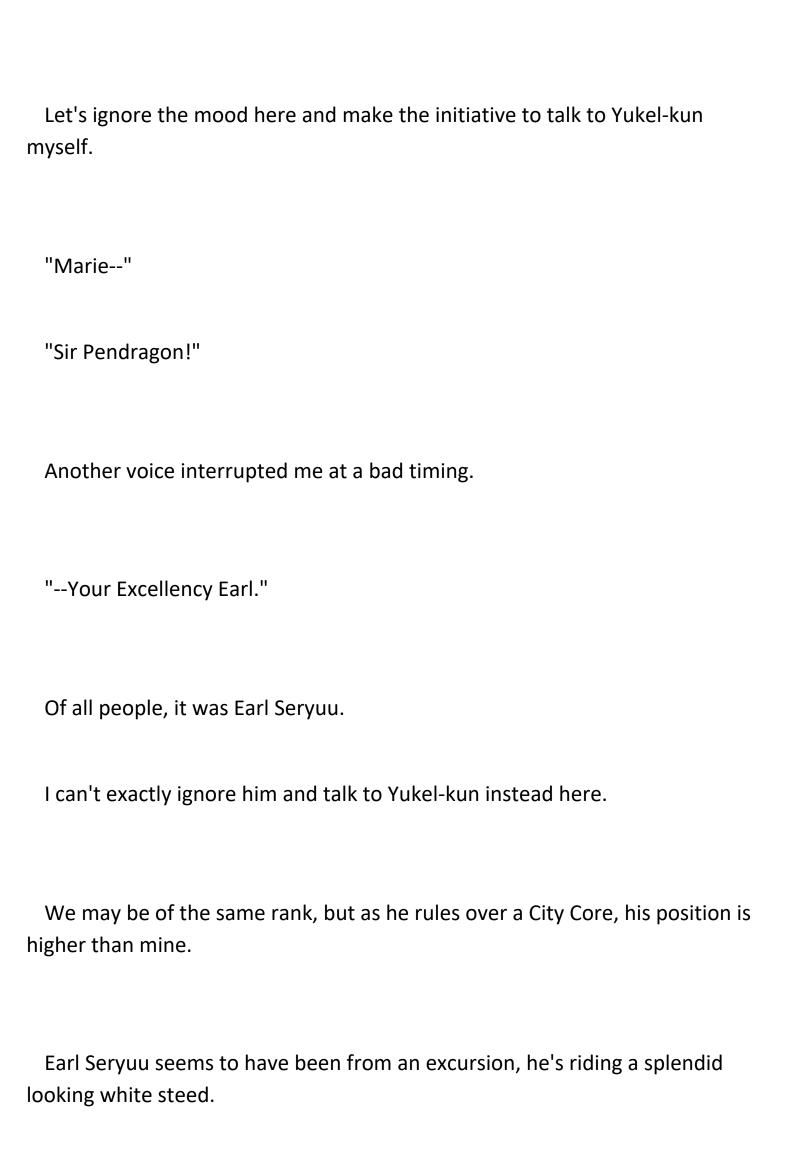
16-36. Earl Seryuu's Foster Daughter (2)

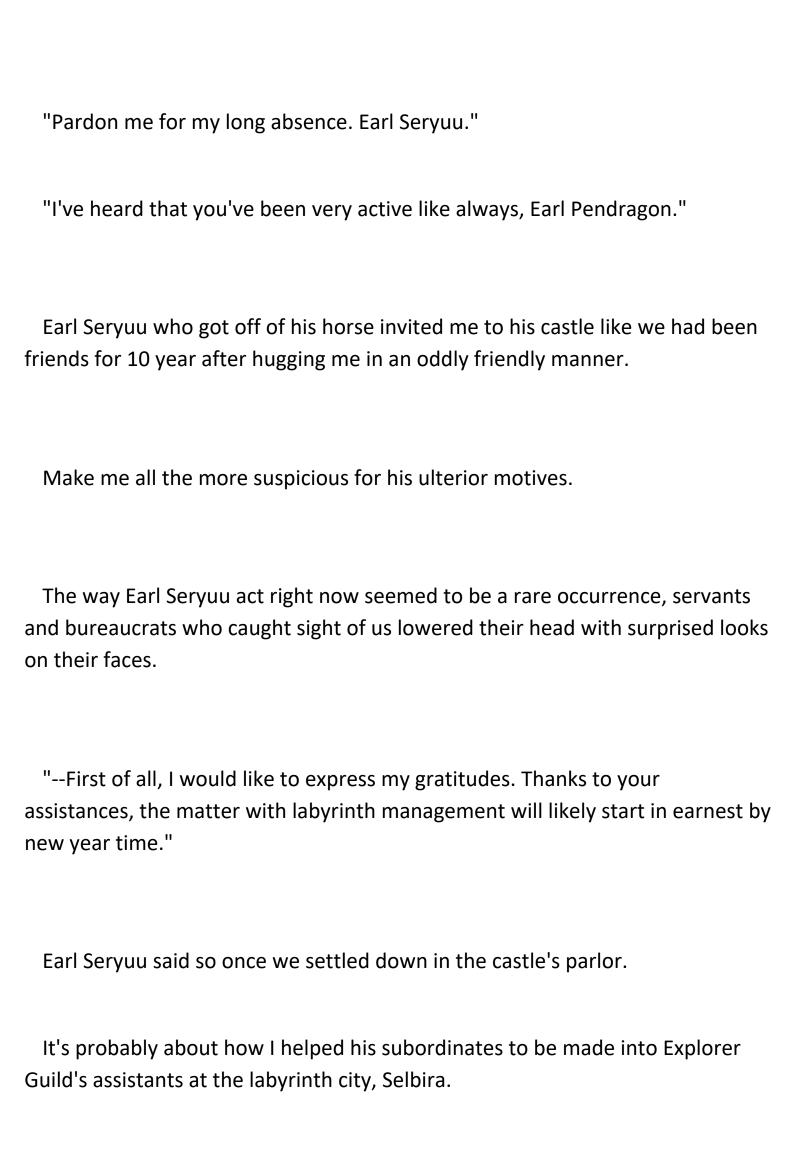
Satou here. I tend to see a lot of foster girls and adopted children in news and fictions, but never from people I'm close with. It's probably not something that happens a lot.

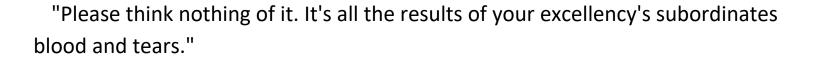


Another knight who was accompanying us interrupted Yukel-kun.

It kinda feels like they don't want to let me talk with Yukel-kun.







"Oh stop with 'your excellency' stuff. You'd remind me to call you that yourself, being a cabinet minister and all. Just call me Ros."

Earl Roswald Seryuu requested for something unreasonable.

"Then, Roswald-sama."

"That's still too cold but acceptable. Mind if I call you Satou-dono?"

I give my consent to Earl Seryuu.

"Satou-dono, as for the reward I promised you, we have 2000 demi human slaves currently working to build facilities for the labyrinth management. However, due to the number and all, the office folks told me to ask you around half a month time for the transfer period."

"Then, allow me to make arrangements for the airships needed to transport the slaves. Since I think that we will get our airship allotment turn within a year, I will be sure to dispatch a delegation from Muno Marquisdom early on."

Let's forward all the responsibilities for this to Consul Nina of Muno Marquisdom.
I'm sure she'd happily welcome them with open arms, as the territory lack the manpower needed for the towns and cities recaptured from monsters, including the city I'm managing, Brighton.
I plan to release them all once they've become self-sufficient.
"Airships to transport demi human? Can't you just have them walk to Muno territory."
"I cannot even begin to fathom the expenses needed for such method."
I replied back in kind to the earl who asked in amazement.
I'd hate to hazard the number of victims that would show up if I were to let 2000 demi human slaves, whose levels are mostly at single digit, walk to Muno Marquisdom.
"I've also put out a ban on demi-human discrimination just as I've promised."
Earl Seryuu looks proud somehow.

But despite that, the attitudes in Gate Inn and stuff felt the same as always	ys.
"Fumu, judging from your displeased looks, you must want to say that discriminations still remain even now, don't you."	
His eyes kinda look like a teacher admonishing a kid who did a poor job.	
"Of course, we've not only issued an edict, y'know? We have soldiers who regularly patrol around the city and punish anyone who throw around unjustifiable violences on demi-humans."	ס
Apparently, there were even citizens who got executed for breaking the b	oan.
"The sense of discriminations within the citizens is deep-rooted. The com abolishment of discriminations in its truest sense probably won't happen follong time."	•
I guess that's only natural.	
There would be no hardships if discriminations would disappear simply by	У

having the statesmen ban it. Even with the law in effect, it probably only means a shift of locations to where the eyes of statesmen don't reach. The reason is similar to why bullying at schools hasn't disappeared. Even so, a prohibition from the statesmen is still necessary as the first step to dispel discriminations. And I think there is only one path to that, a path where people have to learn to change the perception from "bad things" to "things not worth doing." Afterwards, having the demi-humans show that their existence bring benefit to everyone is also effective. "As for the other reward--" Earl Seryuu changed the topic. Now, he's probably going to check the matter about making Miss Auna my wife, and Zena-san my mistress.







"Baron, is it. That's wonderful." "Umu. He's the first to climb to Baron since me, and accumulating feats enough to propel one from Chevalier to Baron hadn't been done since the days of my grandfather." Unlike in my former world, as the nobles in this world aren't given land to govern, letting a noble by blood to ascend the peerage means way higher fixed cost for the lord of said noble. "--Silver Knight Air." Earl Seryuu spoke that name with a suggestive tone. "That was what the knight who slew a greater demon as she flew in the air called herself." "I wonder if she is related somehow to Hero Nanashi-sama and his Golden Knights?"

With the help of Poker Face skill, I ignore past Earl Seryuu's bait.

"I'm in the same opinion. She wielded a holy sword that could fly in the sky not unlike the Claiomh Solais."
Looks like Earl Seryuu bore witness to that fight.
"Someone amongst the people who witnessed that fight told me. That there is a girl whose fighting style resembles that of Silver Knight Air in my territory."
I have a feeling that Earl Seryuu is aware that Zena-san is Silver Knight Air.
Since Zena-san is weak at keeping secret, she'd probably spill it out the moment he interrogated her.
Well, I'm not too worried even if he knew.
"What about you, Satou-dono. Do you know anyone who fights like Silver Knight Air?"
"Unfortunately, as I never saw how the Silver Knight Air-dono fights myself."
"Is that so. Sorry to ask for the unreasonable. Getting back to the topic at hands"

Earl Seryuu easily pulled back at my excuses.

Doesn't look like he's trying to ascertain Silver Knight Air's identity.

"We will be holding a ball to celebrate Sir Marientail's promotion tonight. It would be my pleasure if Satou-dono could participate. Of course, your subordinates are invited too."

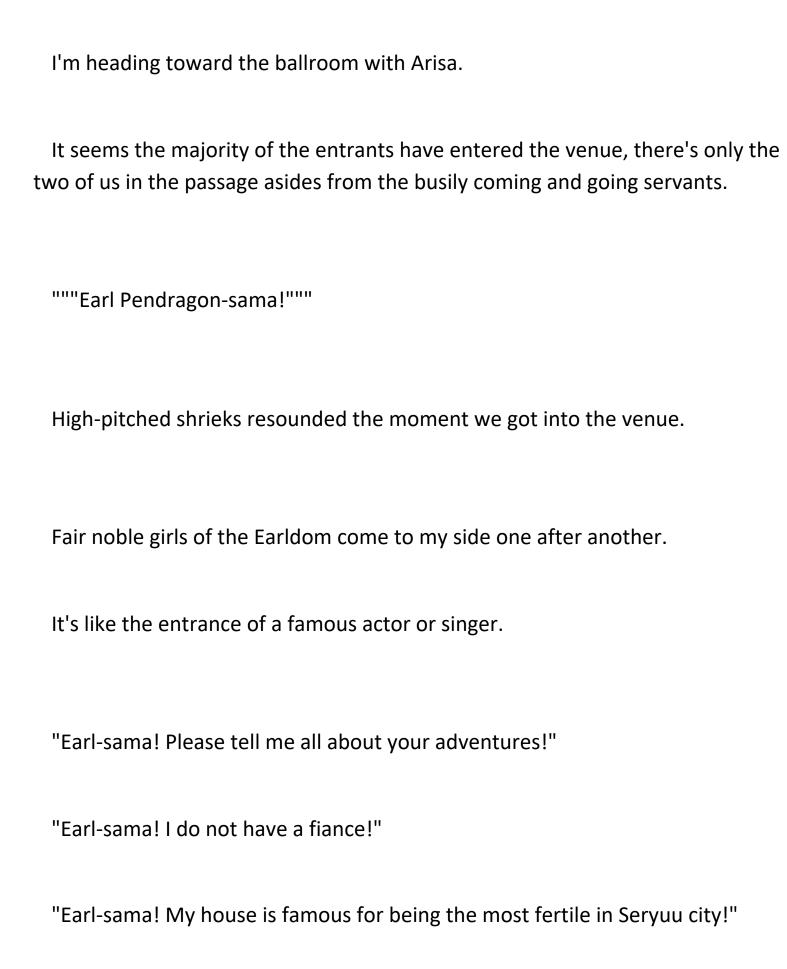
According to Earl Seryuu, it's OK for the beastkin girls to come to the party, but I wouldn't want to expose them to the inevitable inquisitive glances.

I did check with everyone to see if they wanted to participate, but in the end, only Arisa is going to come with me.

I was planning to go back to the inn once, but the time for the ball approached while I was arguing with Earl Seryuu about whether the labyrinth should be managed by himself or not.

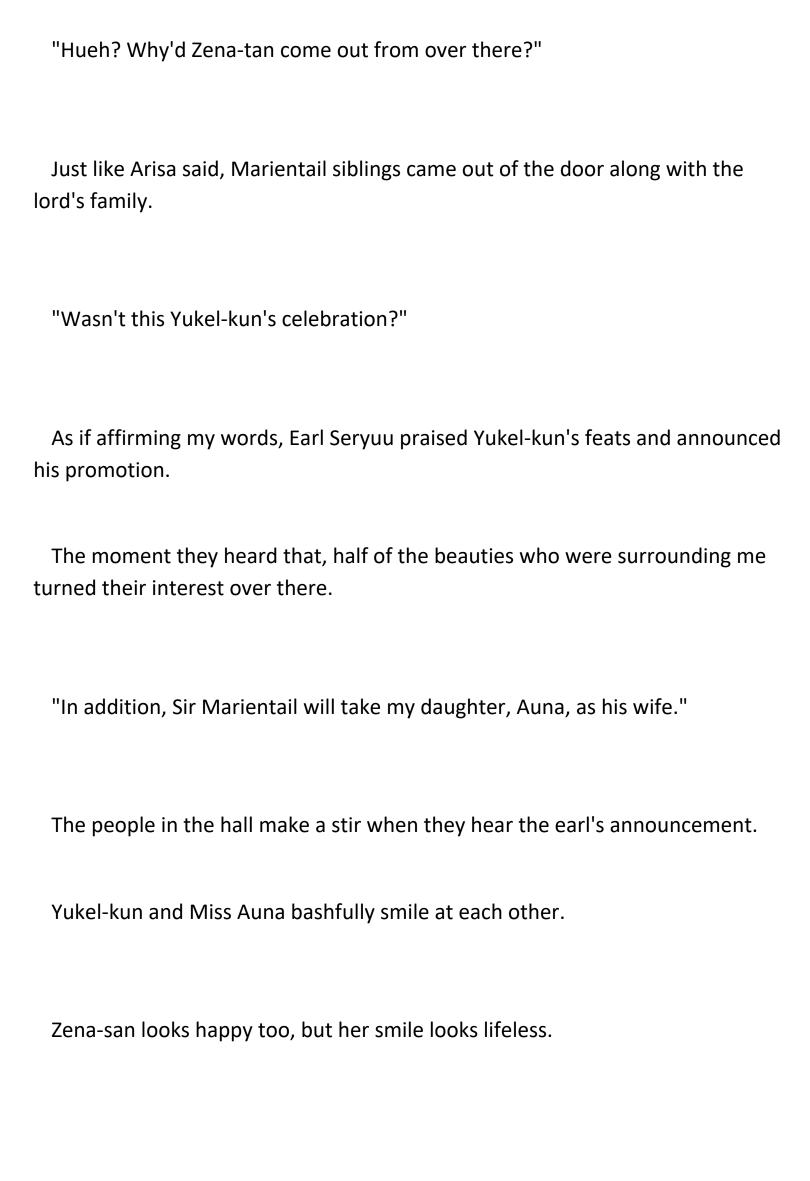


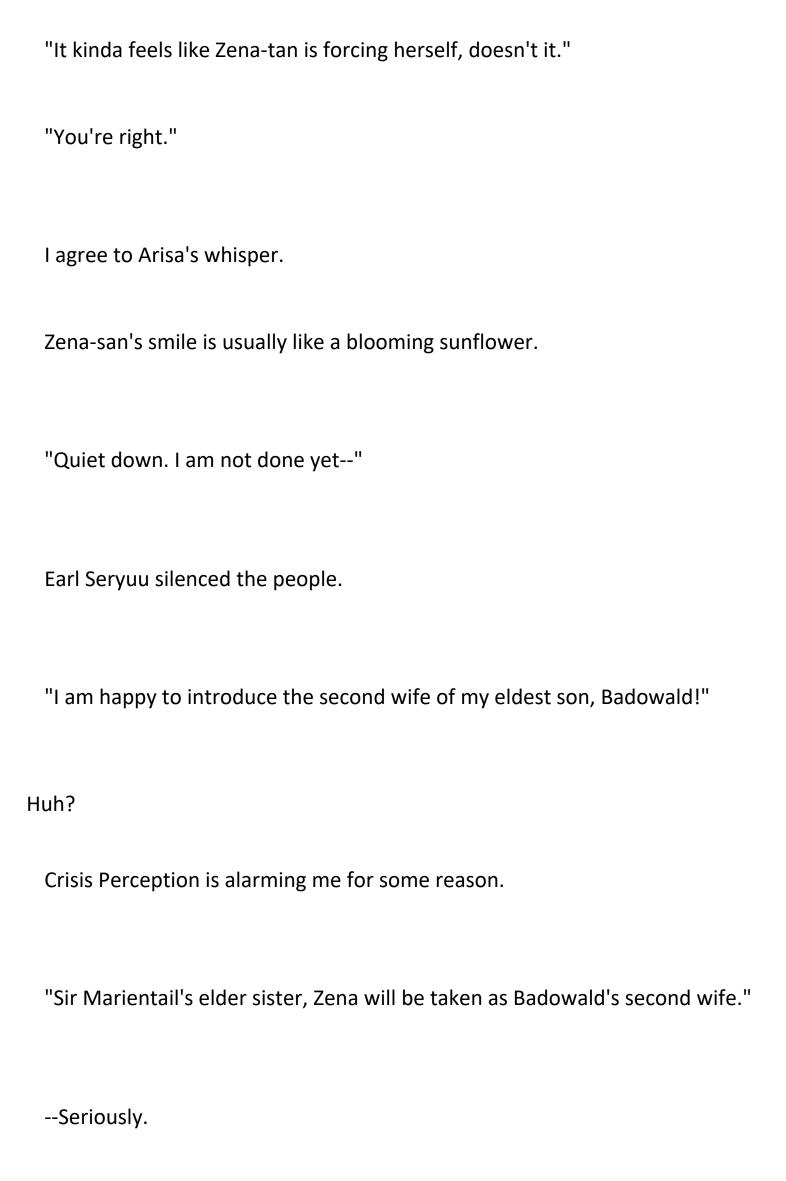
"Hmmm, first time coming here, but this Earl Seryuu's castle is really designed for wars unlike the Royal Castle isn't it."

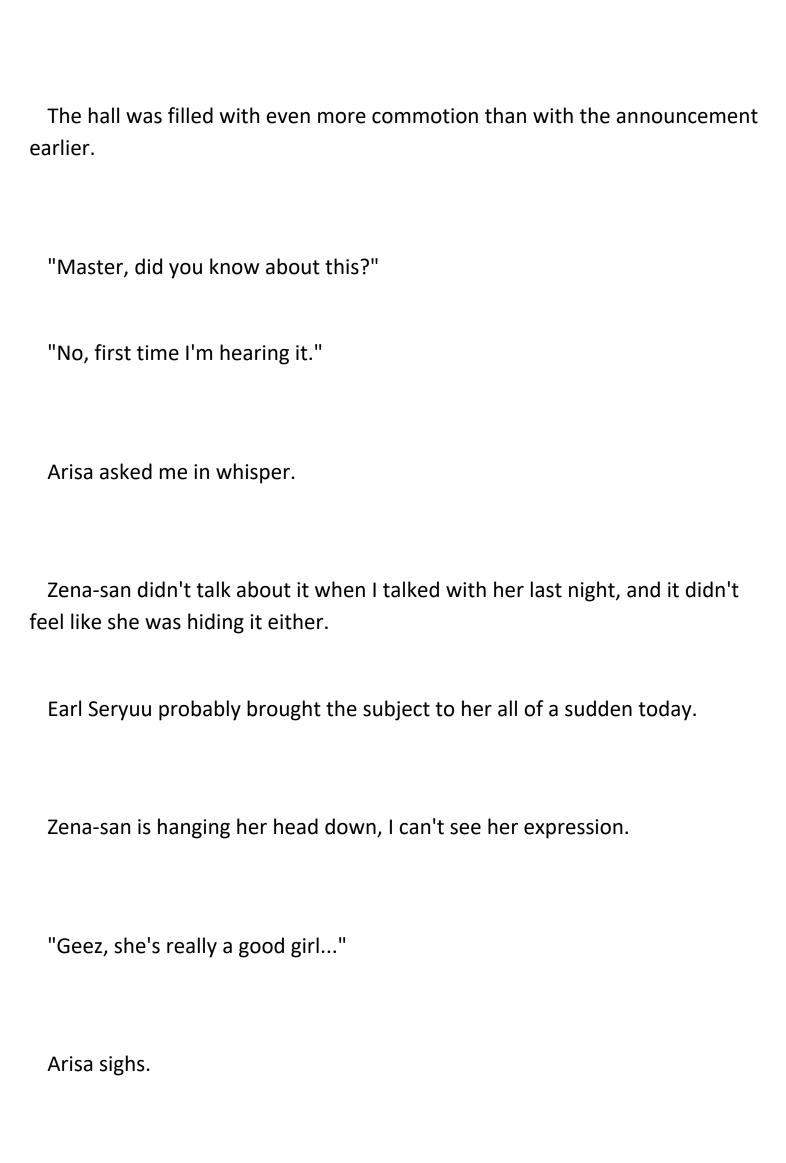


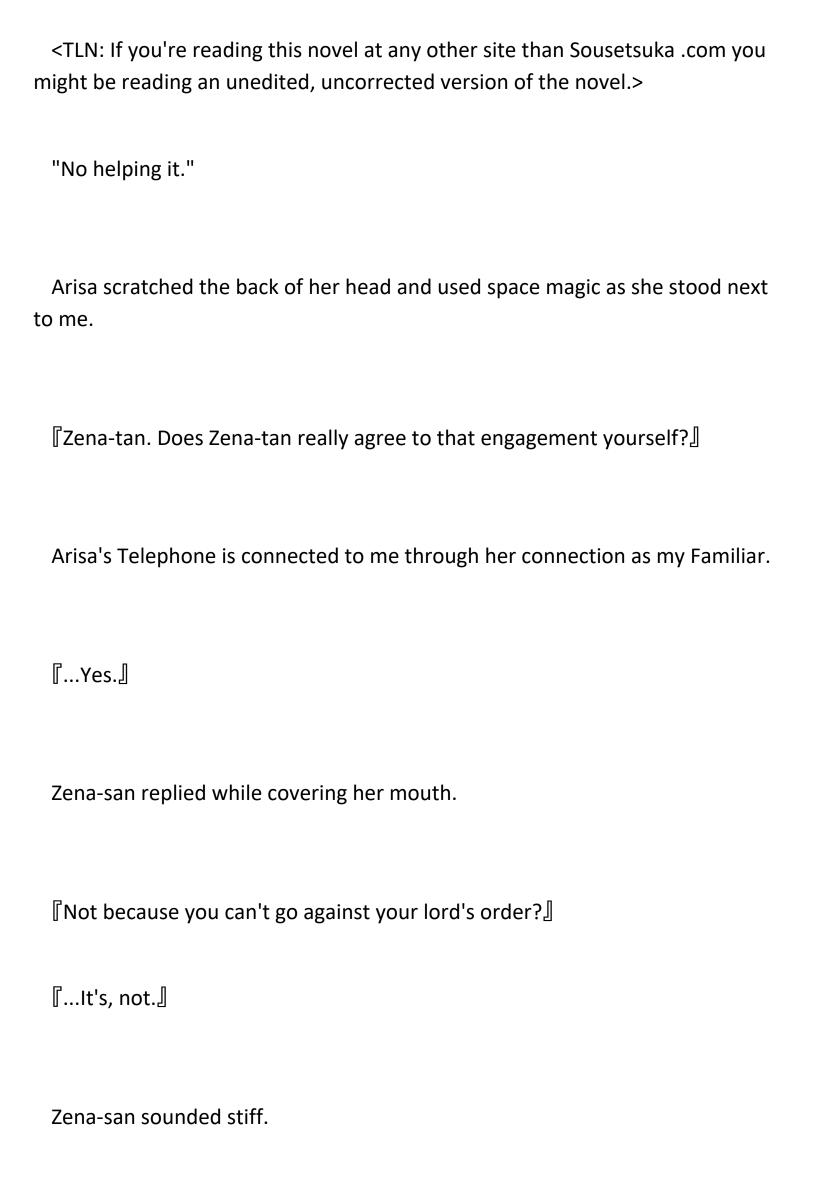
The beauties who are encircling me make their appeal.

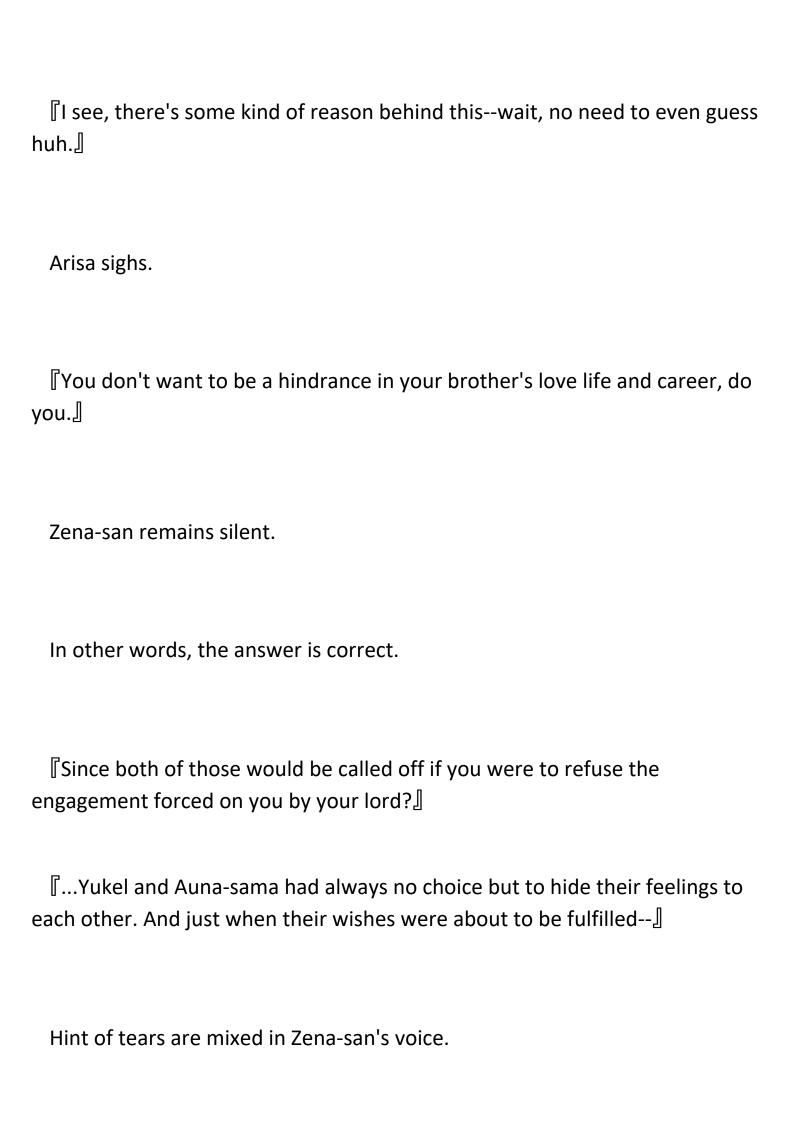
Fertility being an appeal point seems to be common in Shiga Kingdom.
As they're dressing more brazenly compared to the girls at the Royal Capital, lots of the beauties emphasize their cleavage, truly a sight for sore eyes.
"Master's popularity is to the point of being sickening isn't it. I should have brought Mia alongHey, you there! Don't feel on Master as you please!"
Arisa attempted to guard me from the beautiful noble ladies, but she's way outnumbered.
Hm?
Noticing a glance, I turn around and see a butler gazing here.
"What's up?"
The butler averted his glance like it was nothing while I was paying attention to Arisa, opened a door and announced the entrance of the territory lord and his family.

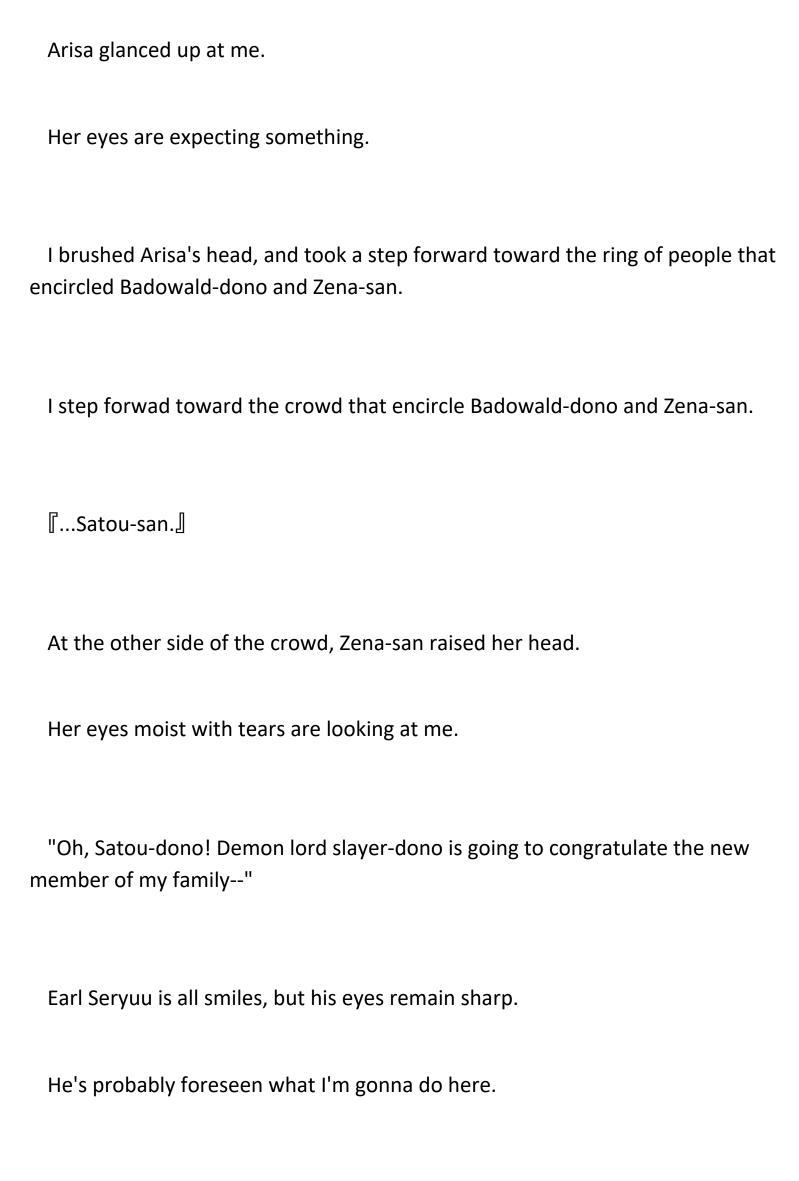


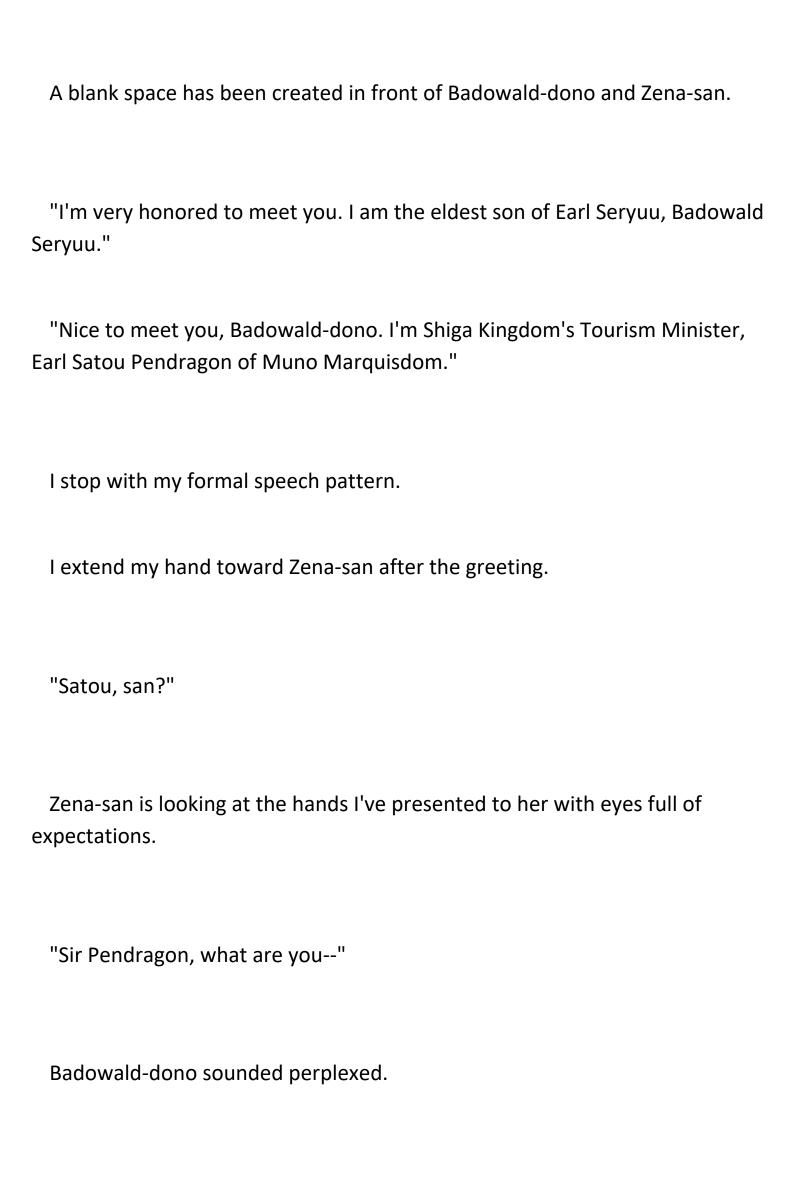






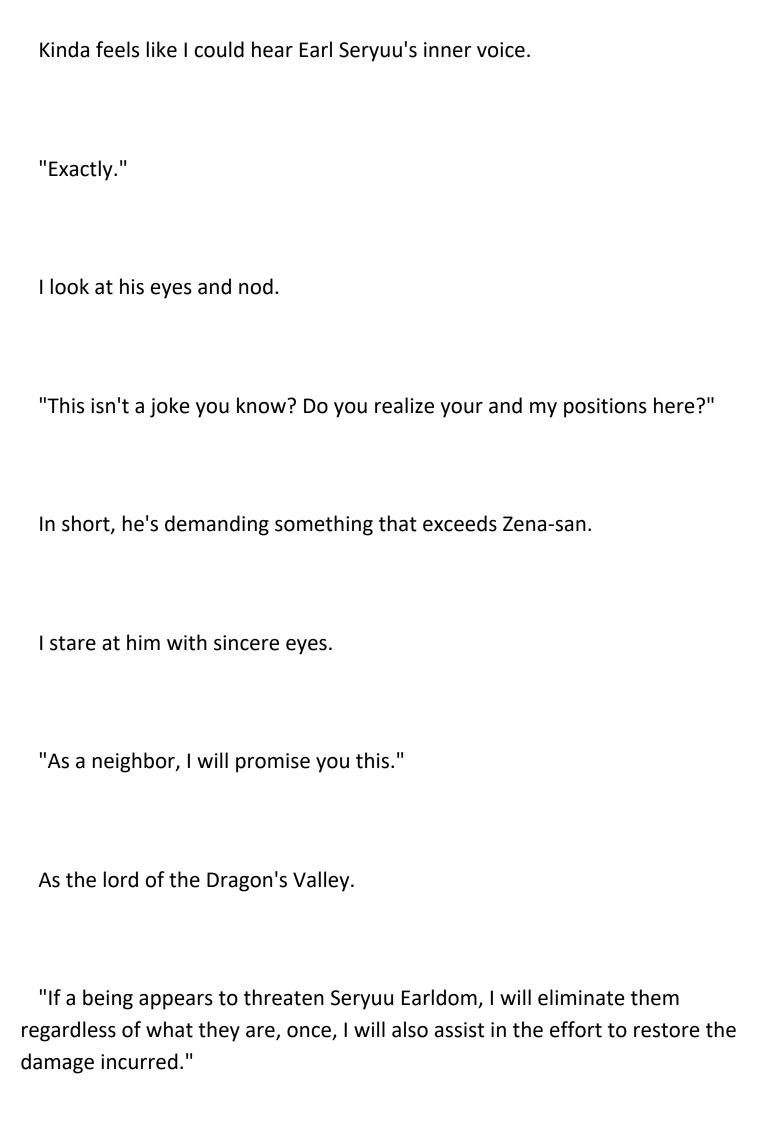


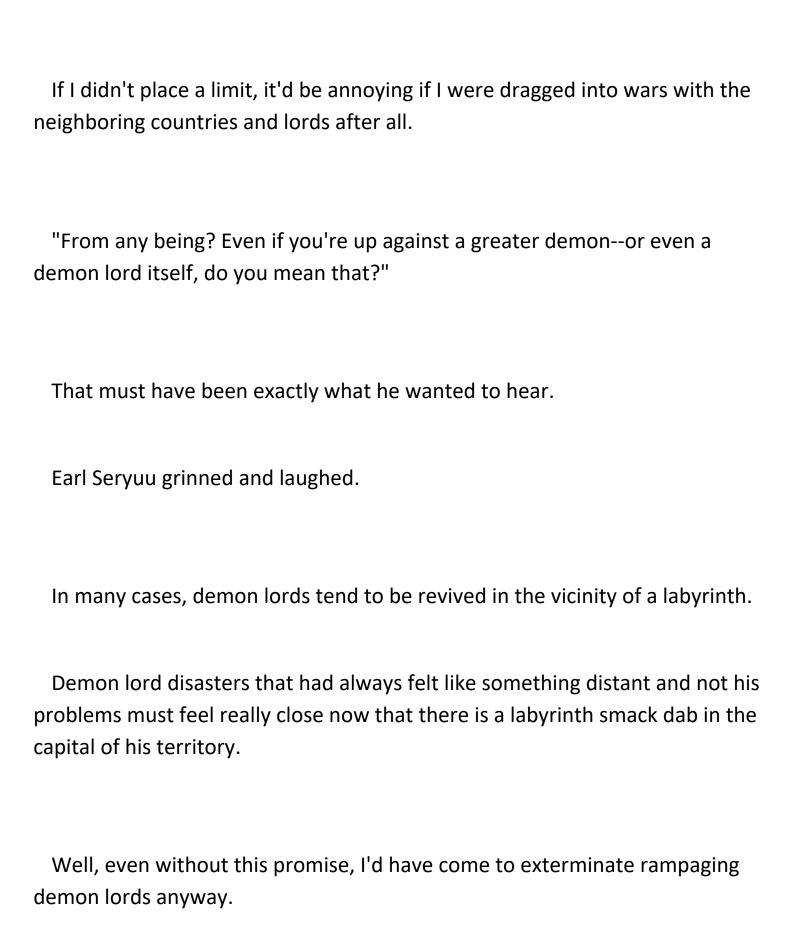






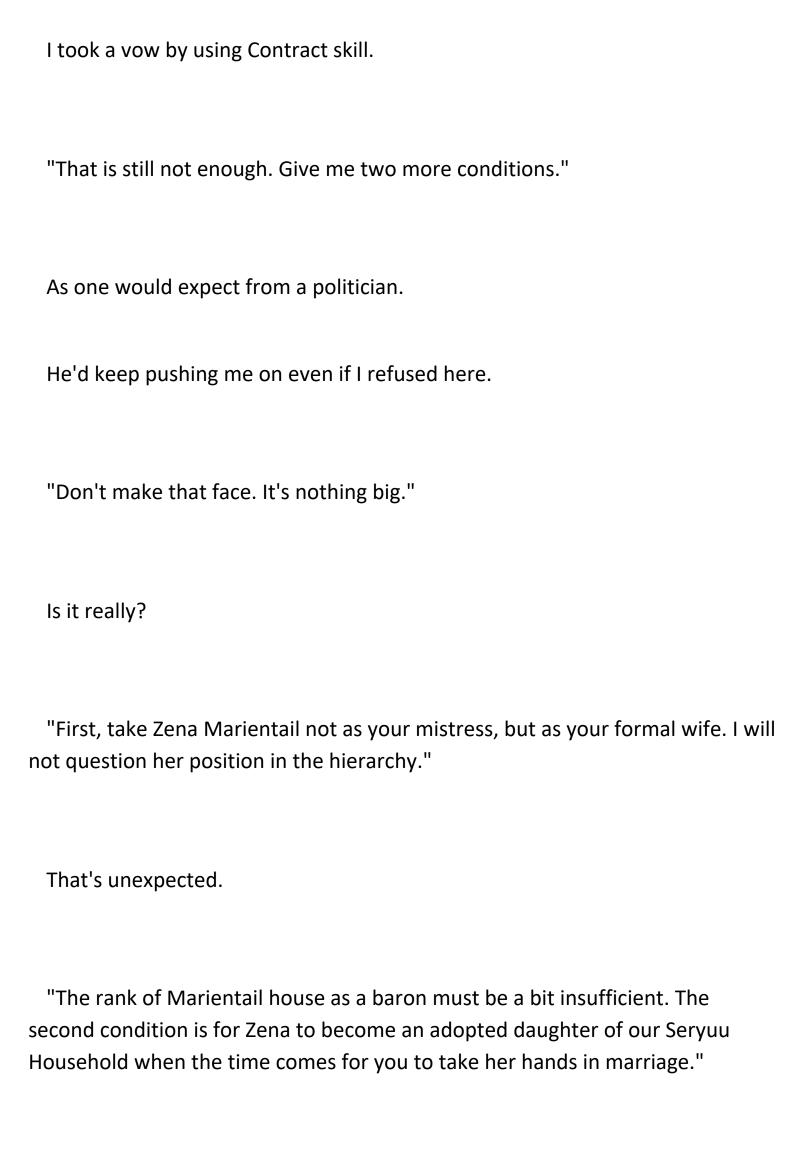
Earl Seryuu stopped Yukel-kun who was going to question me with his hand.
I somehow get the feelings that he was dragged in the plot, but there was never a choice to abandon Zena-san here, so I'm not going to let him complain.
"Let me hear your excuses."
Earl Seryuu quietly asked.
"I'm taking her for myself."
If Zena-san wished for the engagement with Badowald-dono herself, I would congratulate her as a friend.
But I cannot abandon her if they're looking to make use of Zena-san as Silver Knight Air, not as herself, to benefit Seryuu Earldom.
"In other words, you're going to deprive my son of his fiancee?"





"Even if I'm up against a demon lord. I swear by the title of Demon Lord

Slayer--■■ Contract"

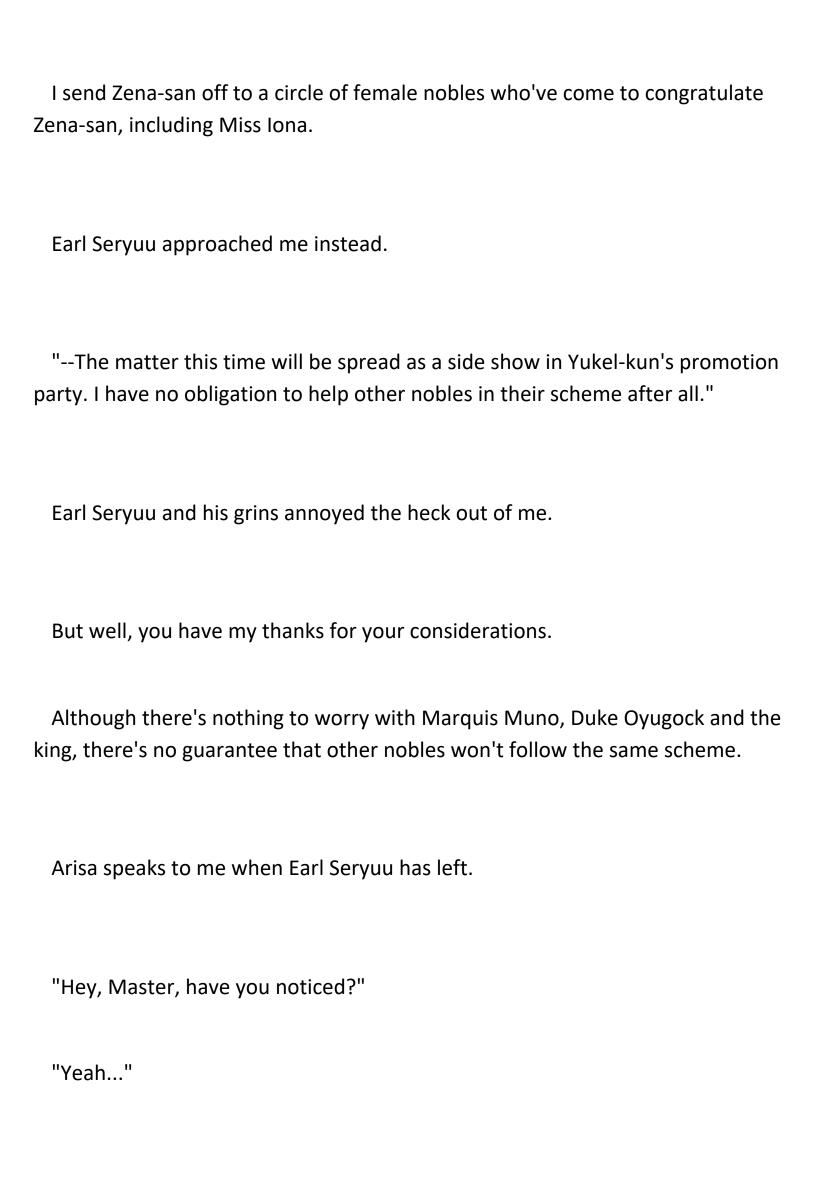


I see, he's going to make us related through that huh. Looks like he's really eager to tie relationship with me no matter what. "Very well. I agree to those two conditions." "Then--Contract established." The Contract skill earlier formally activated the moment Earl Seryuu declared SO. Right at the same time, the nobles gave their applauses, and as if informed by that, the other people also congratulated me by giving handshakes. Looks like Earl Seryuu has prepared shills among them beforehand. Yukel-kun's expression that looked like he didn't get what was going on turned perplexed after Earl Seryuu whispered something to his ear. On the other hand, Badowald-dono seemed like he didn't find this amusing,

Badowald-dono was probably a conspirator in Earl Seryuu's scheme and Yukel-kun was made to dance in it.

but he's not flustered at all.



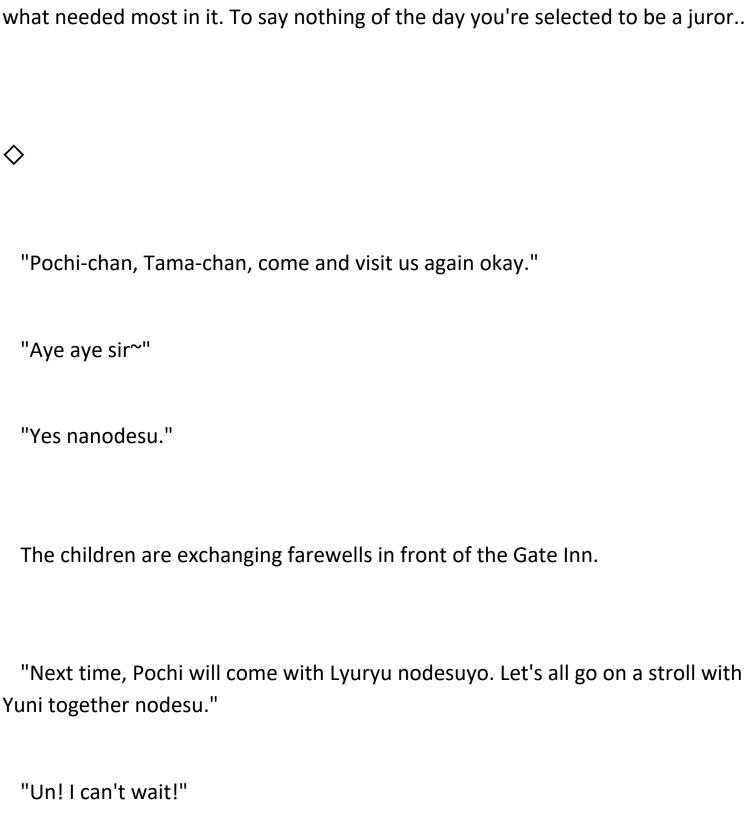


I gave an affirmative to Arisa's question.
Zena-san who's surrounded by her friends has gotten a new title.
Satou's Fiancee.
Well, considering the situation
I check my Log.
> [Plunder] skill acquired
> Title [Plunderer] Acquired.
> Title [Love Hunter] Acquired.
> Title [Soulmate] Acquired
I got some slightly objectionable titles and skills.

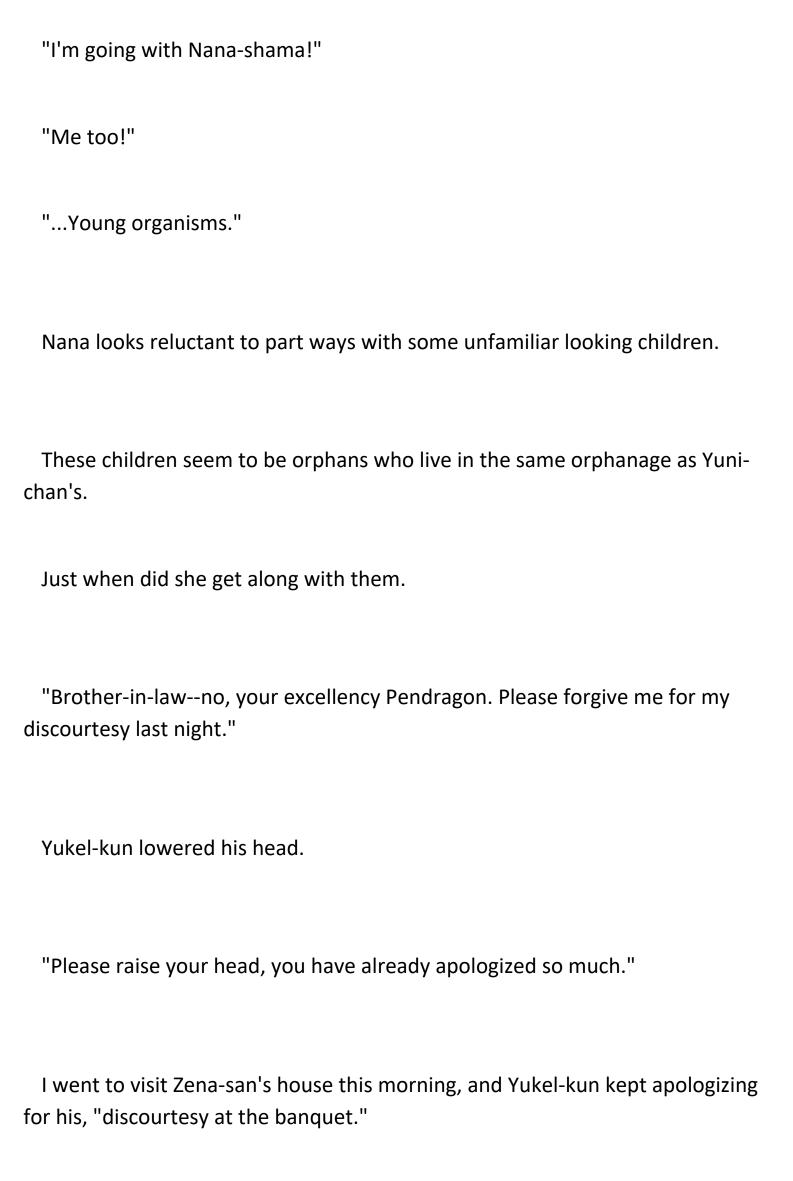
Well, maybe I'll leave the last title be on the Alternate Column for a while.

16-37. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (1)

Satou here. Trials take time and money, but I think willpower and stamina are what needed most in it. To say nothing of the day you're selected to be a juror...







Since I can't even remember what he did, I really am not sure how to deal with his excessive apology.

Apparently, he thought that I was a, "casanova who was just playing around with his elder sister" from what he gathered from the people around him, he was going to ask that when he came to pick me at the Handymen yesterday.

Due to that misunderstanding, and also for the sake of his elder sister, he agreed to Zena-san getting engaged to Earl Seryuu's oldest son, Badowald-dono.

Well, in a nutshell, Yukel-kun is a siscon.

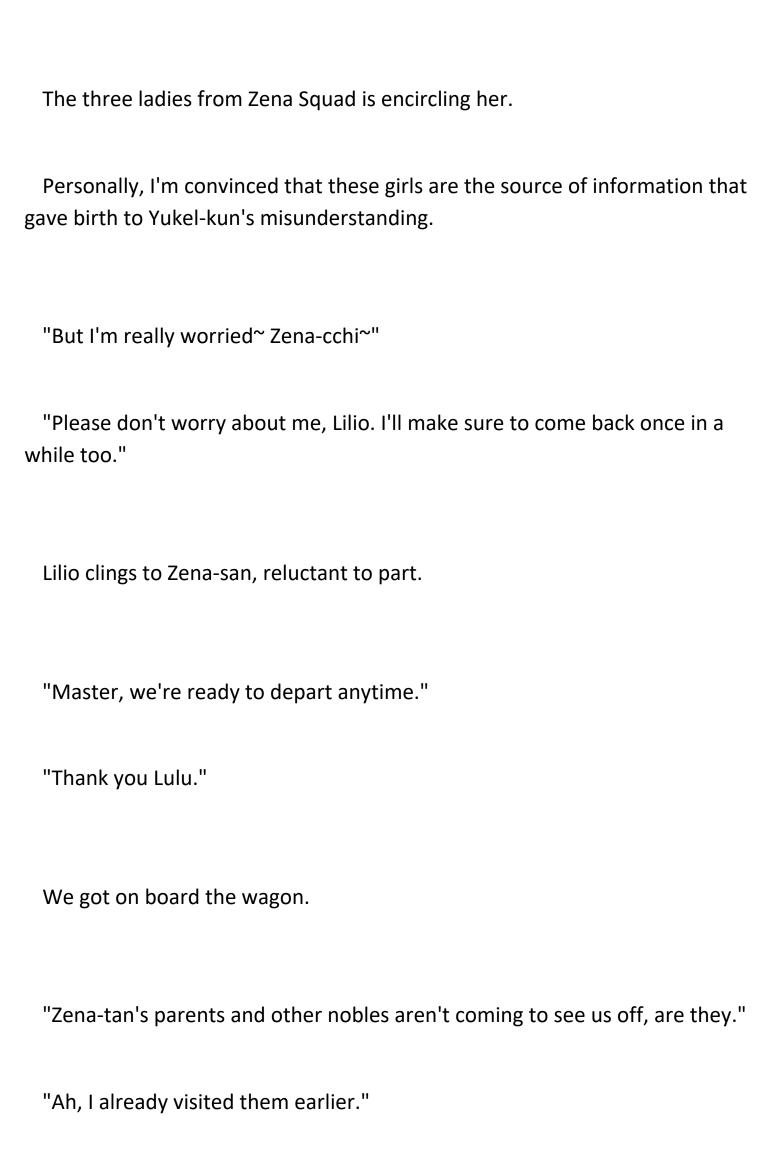
"Boy, take care of Zena-cchi, you hear me."

Miss Lilio, Zena-san's co-worker, talked to me unreservedly.

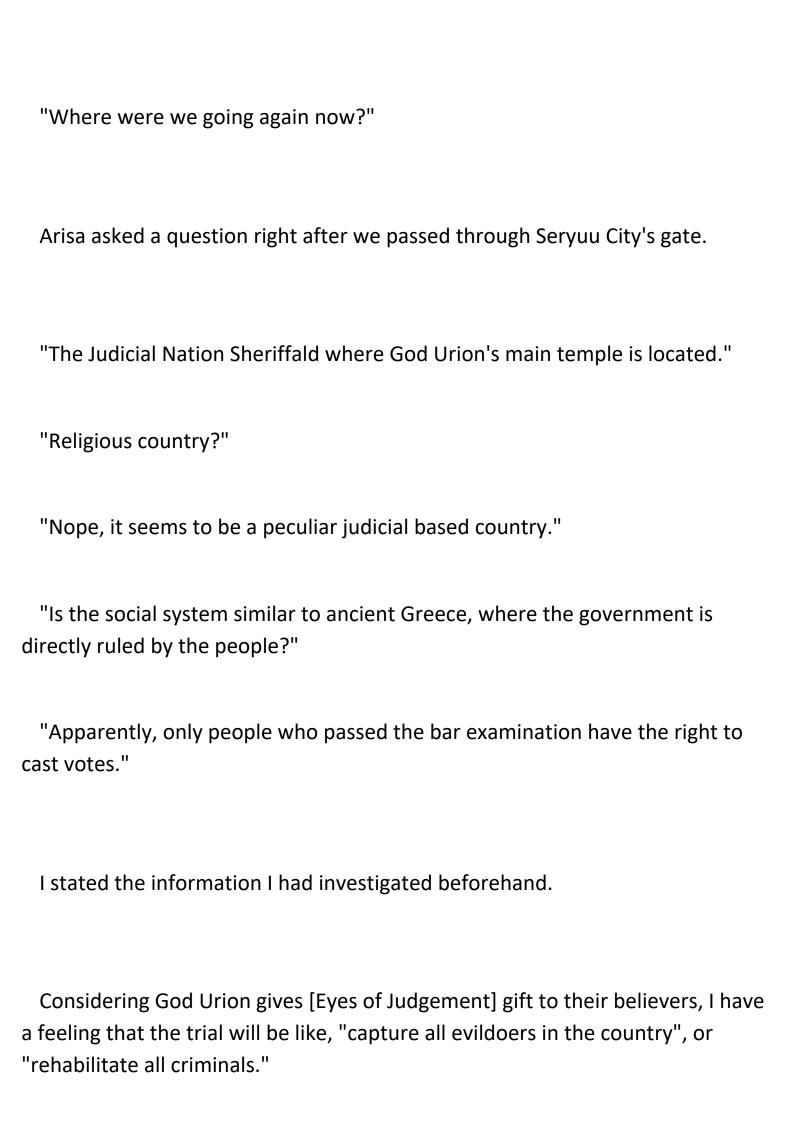
"Lilio, call his excellency, Earl Pendragon or your excellency."

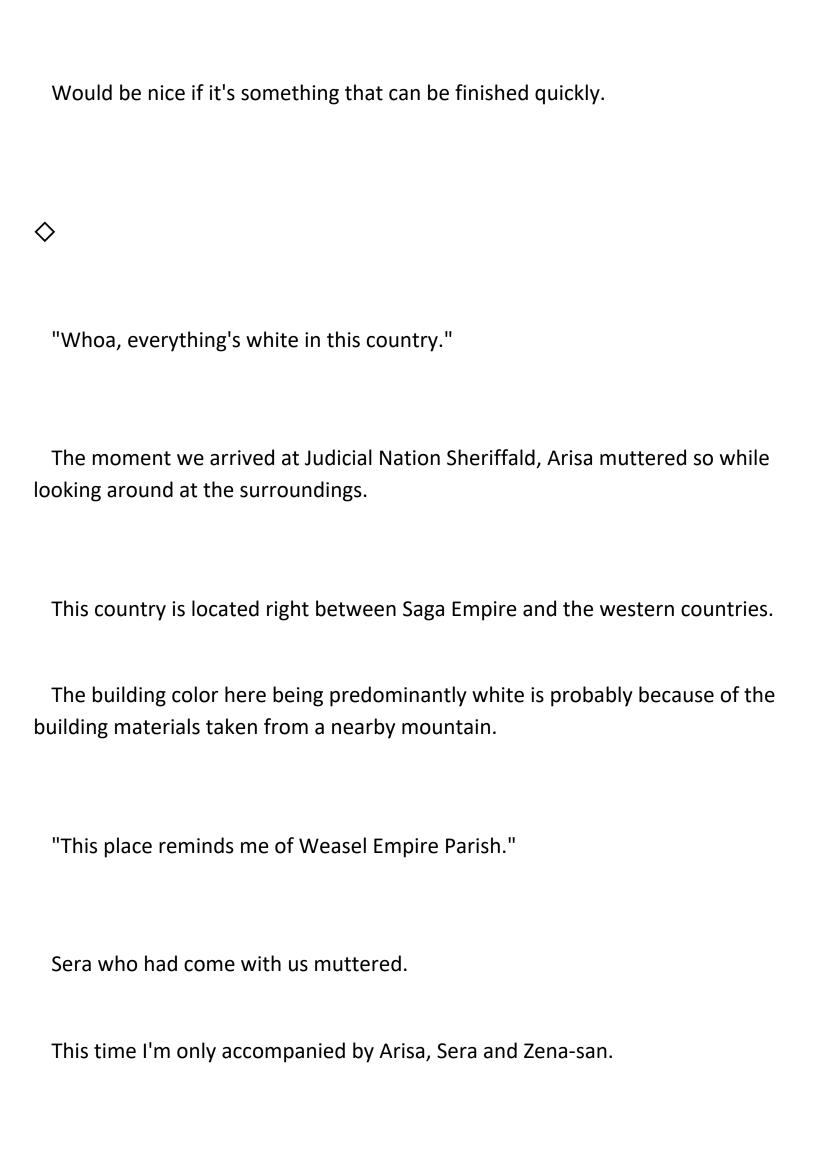
"That's rite'. Though I guess inept Lilio just can't help it."

"Ruu... That's too much."









Princess Sistina declined to go there, saying, "I don't like the people of Judicial Nation Sheriffald."

In addition, since demi-humans are discriminated against here, Liza, Mia and Lulu aren't coming either.

Nana, Pochi, and Tama need to go to school, so they're not here.

"The atmosphere does feel similar. Like with the bland whitish attires the people wear."

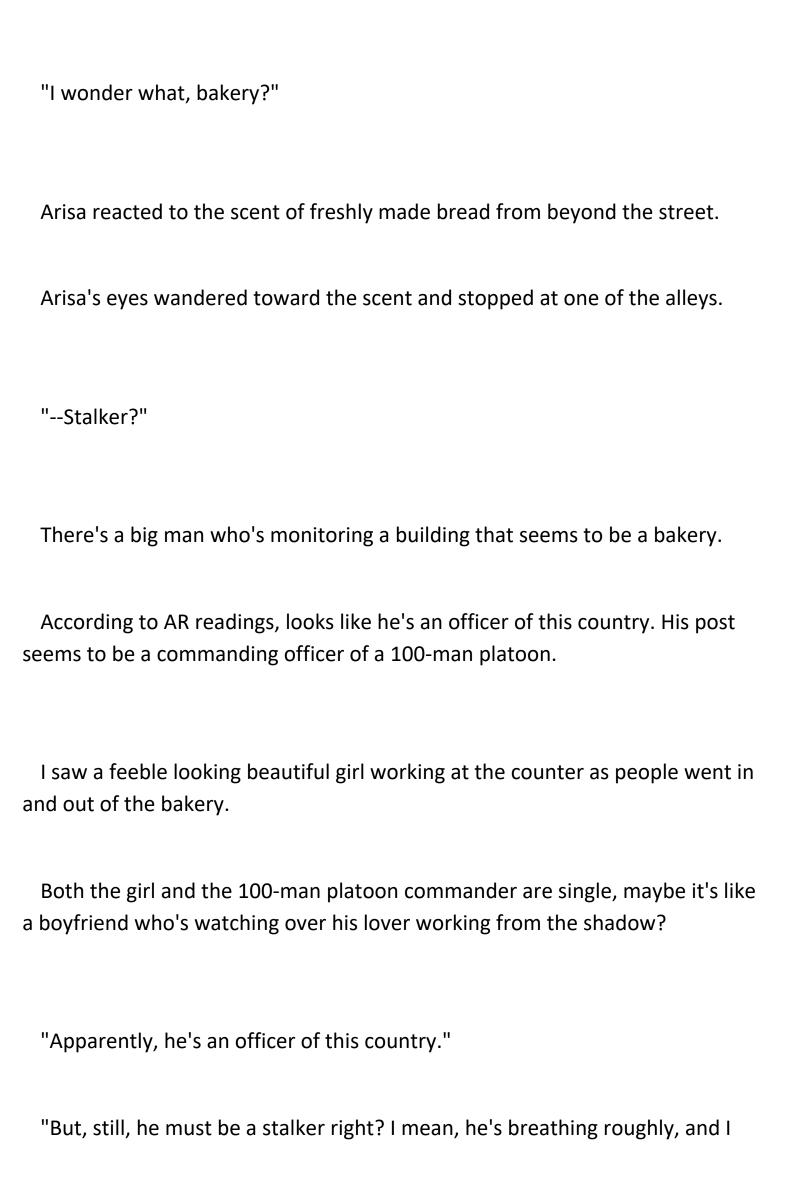
Arisa pointed at the people of Judicial Nation Sheriffald who were walking on the street.

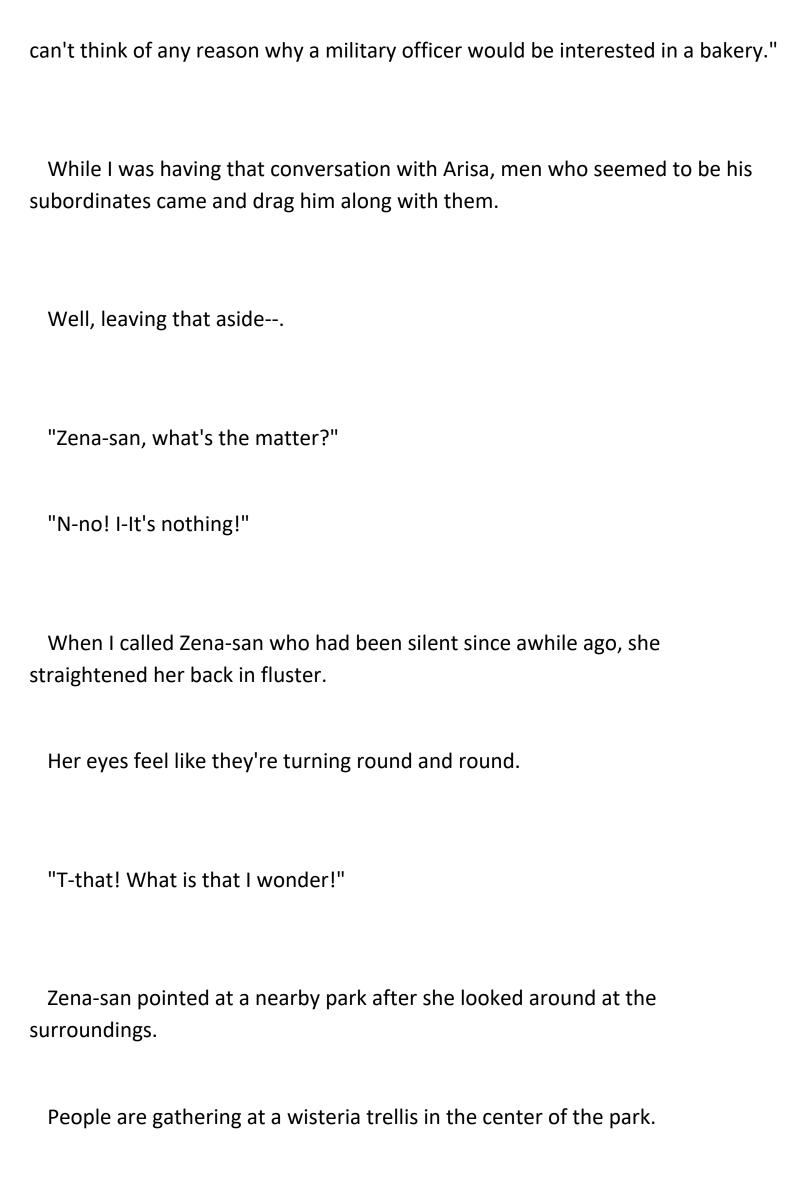
They consist of plain-looking white shirts and slacks, but maybe because the practice of ironing clothes is well known here, there's not even a wrinkle on their clothes.

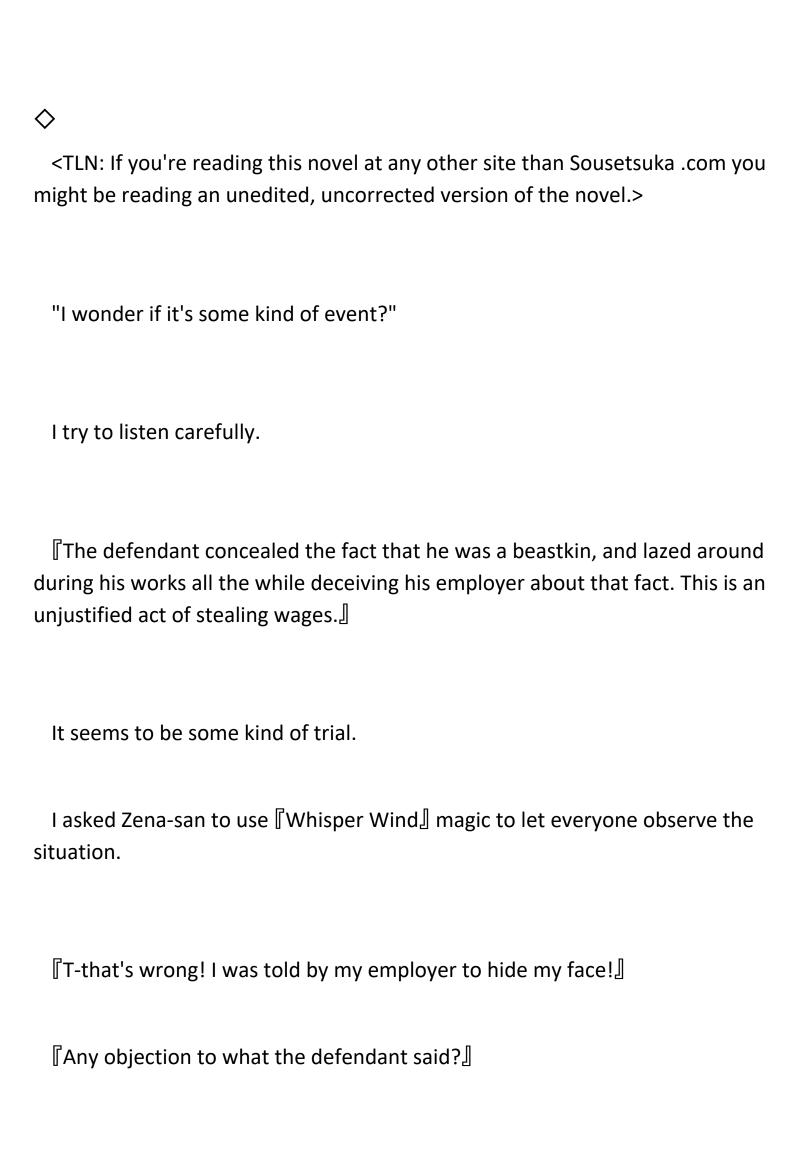
And despite the fairly cold climate, few people wear thick clothing.

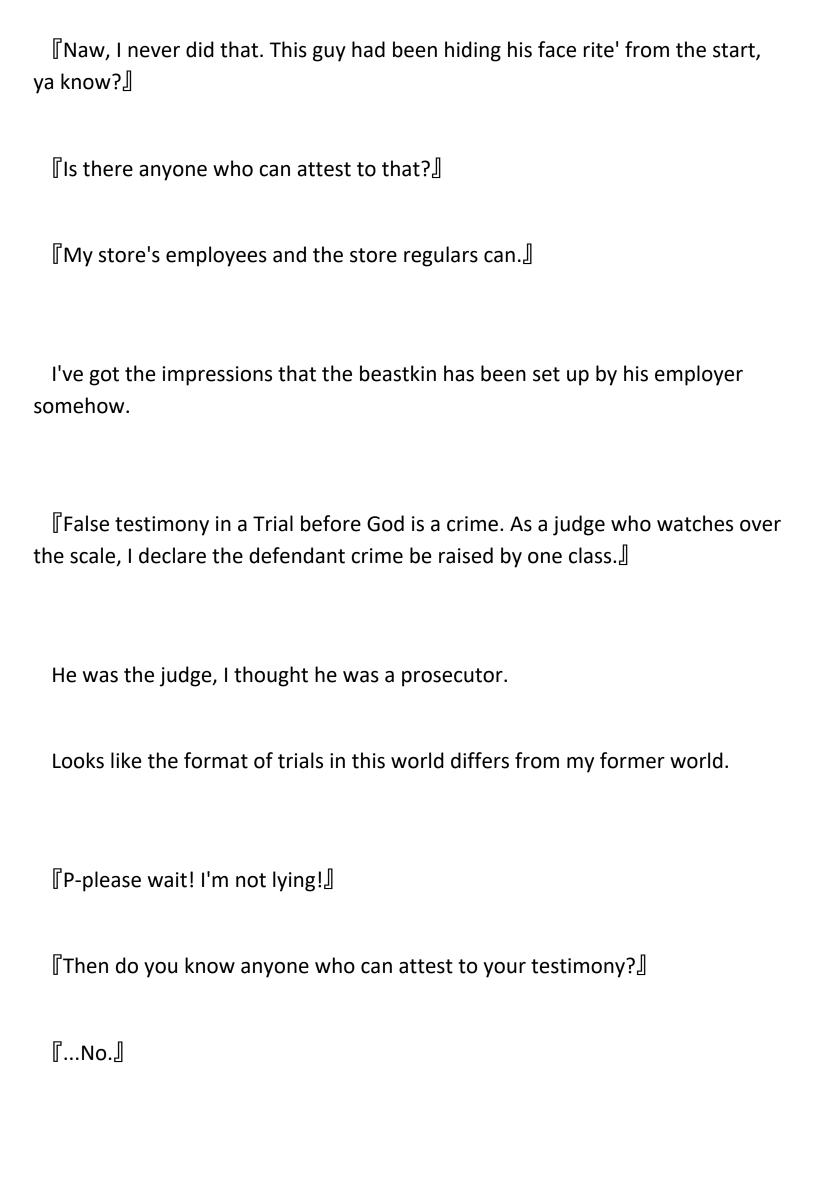
Not a lot of these people cracked a smile, they somehow look like Japanese in the commuter rush somehow.

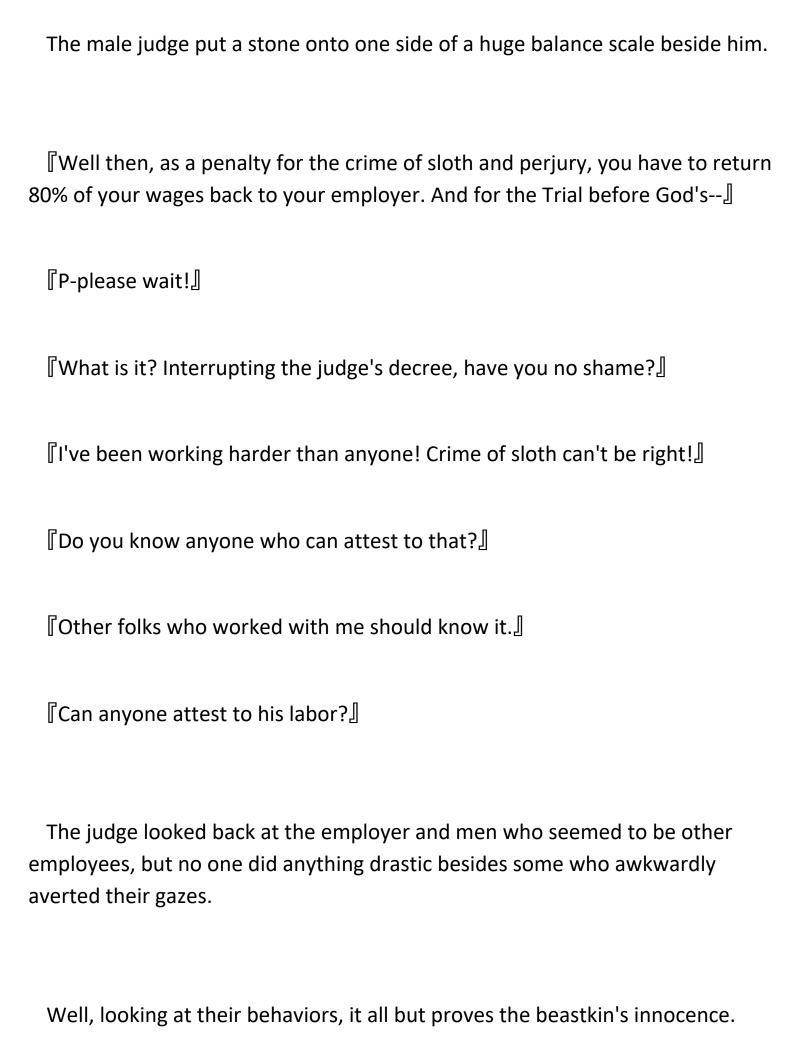
[&]quot;Something smells nice."

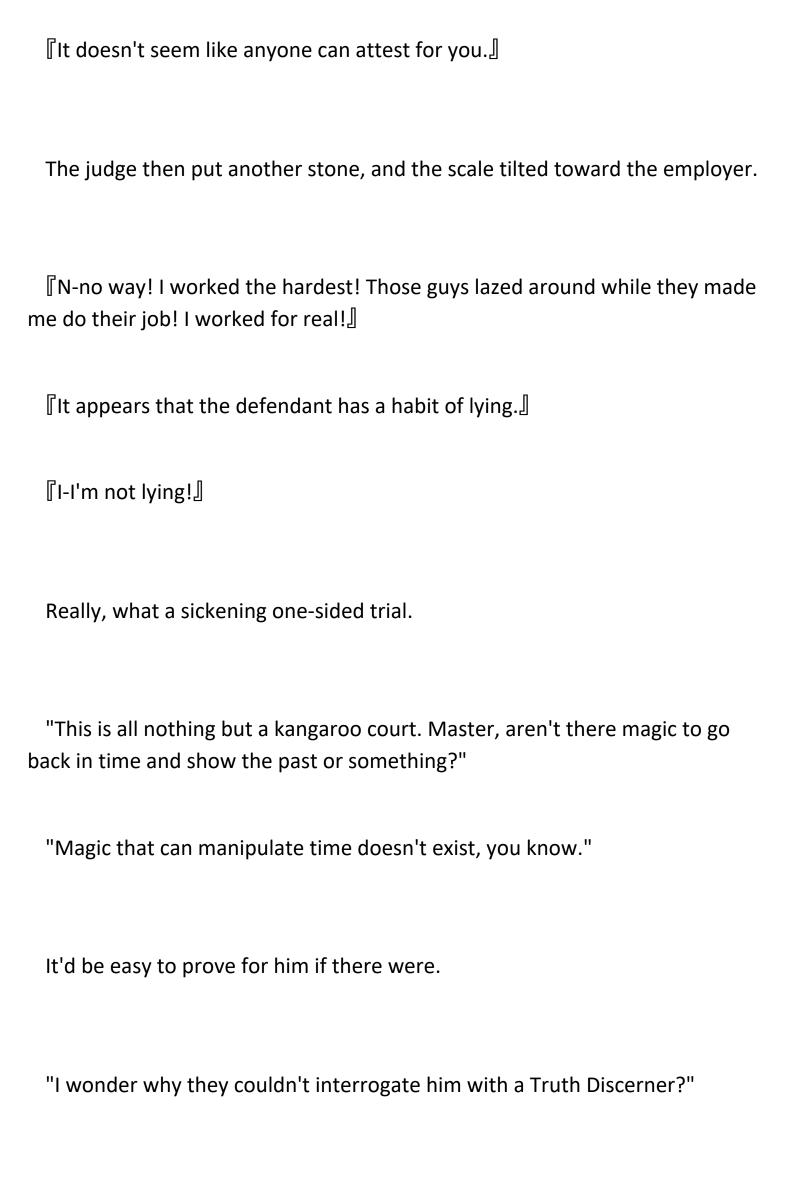












Sera muttered so.

Oh right. I forgot because this looked like a trial, but this world had Truth Discerners who could see through lies in an interrogation.

Looking around at the Map, there's no Truth Discerner at this place.

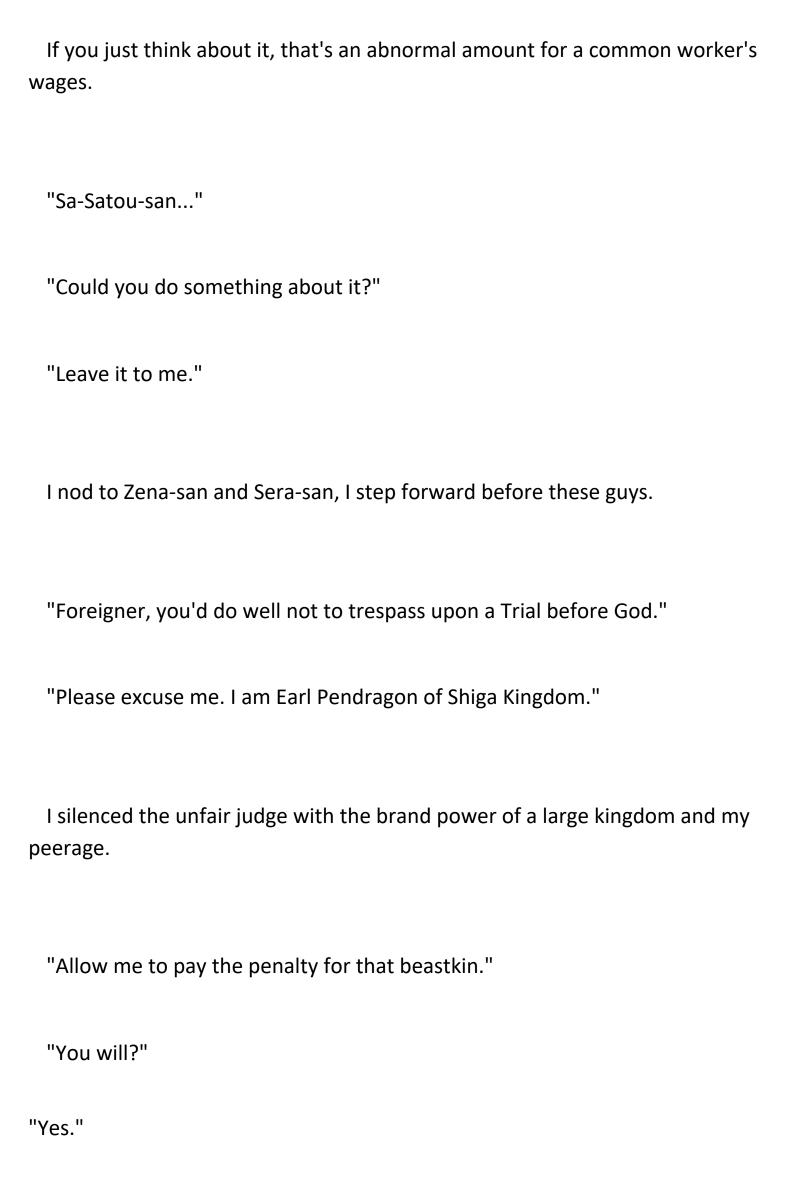
They seem to be serving under the country, a great majority of them is inside a building called Judicial Bureau, while the several remaining ones are in the Main Temple.

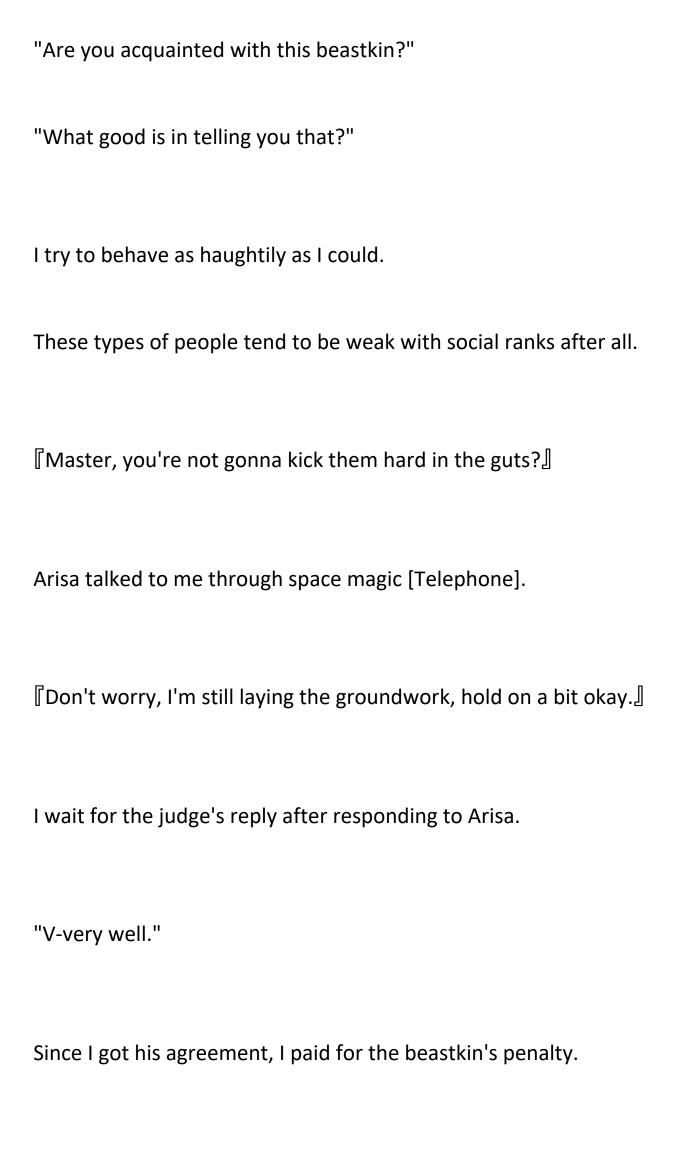
Lots of them seem overworked and with Stamina gauge nearing zero, I'm guessing that they can't afford to send them to trivial trials.

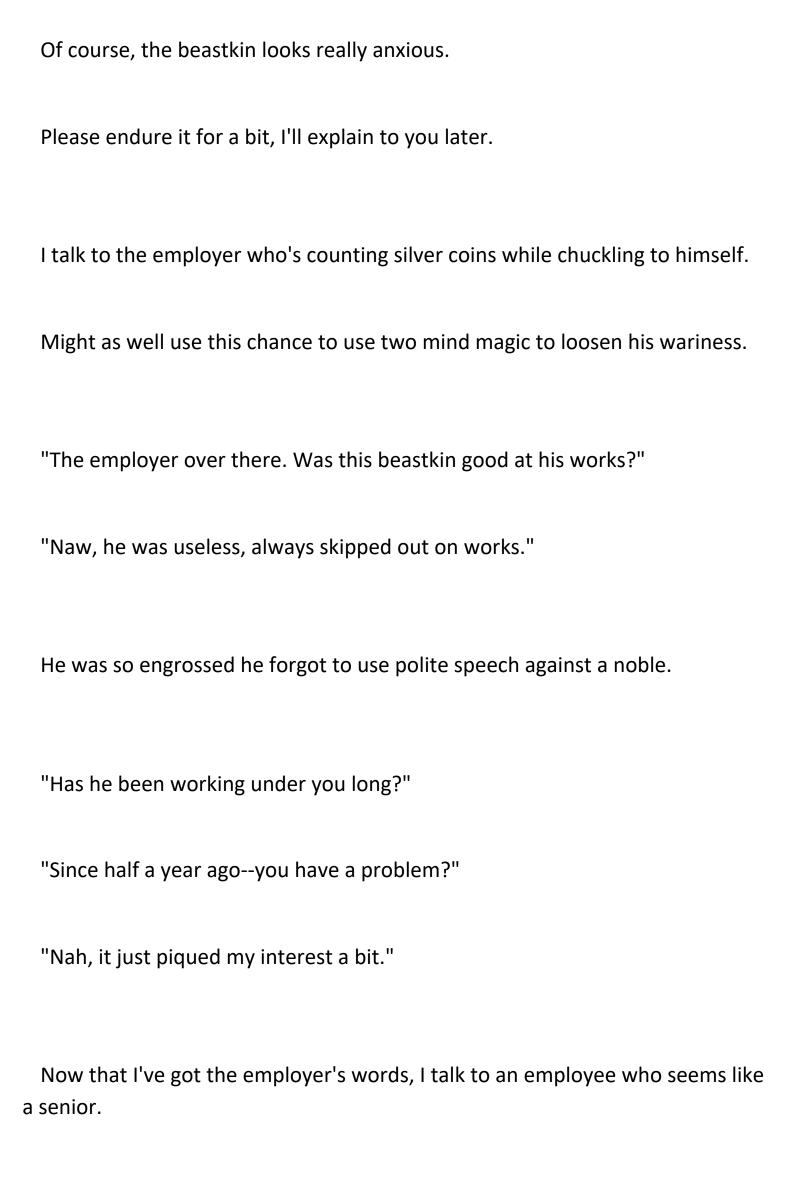
I shall pass your judgment! The defendant shall reimburse his employer with 200 emir, and pay the same amount to the court for the crime of perjury. In case you cannot pay right here and now, you will be detained as a debt slave.

[M-my wage wasn't that much! My entire pay is 3 emir!]

The currency of this country, emir is silver coin, thus even converted to Shiga Kingdom's, that's still 40 gold coins.



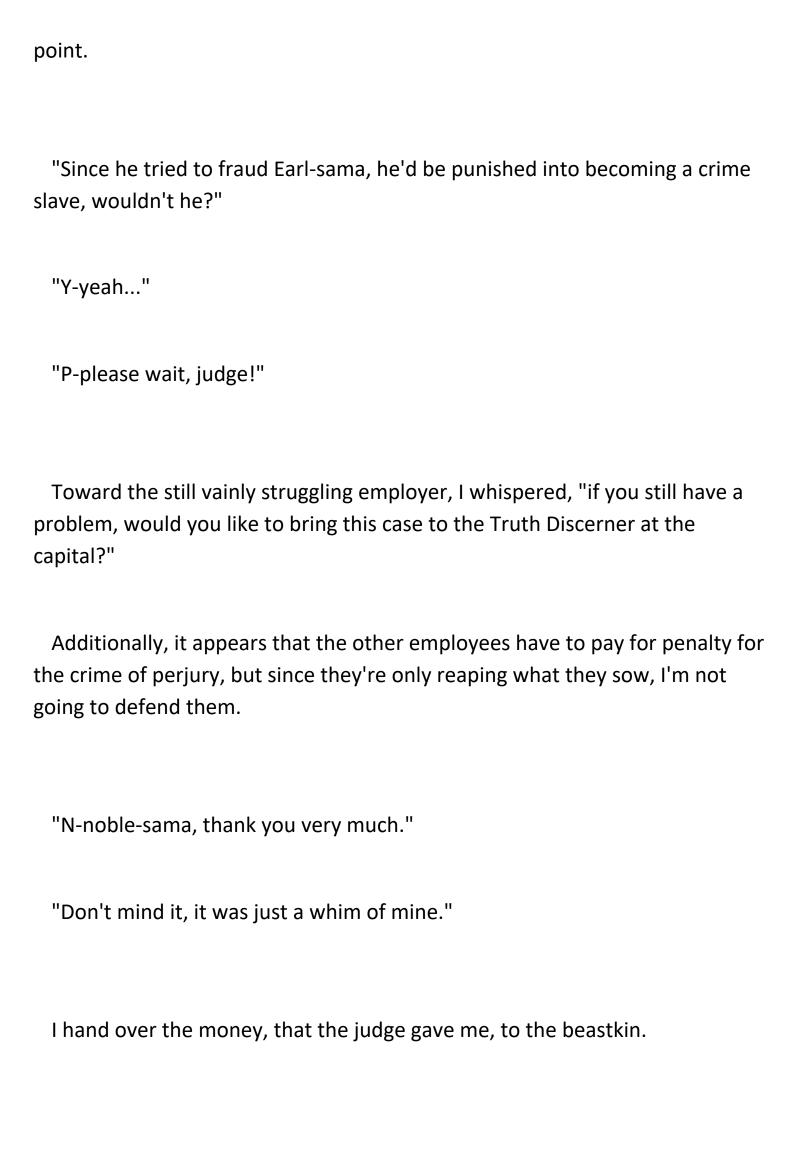






I called the judge before the senior employee could correct himself. For some reason, Arisa shouted while striking a pose from a famous trial and tribulation game. She must have been waiting for this timing, no doubt about it. "What is it, Earl-sama." "This guy just confessed to his crime. He's caught red-handed in a fraud." "--Fraud? Don't be foolish." "Who do you think you are making fools of earl-sama!" Arisa shouted at the stunned judge. I contested to the shrinking judge, that if a diligent long serving worker only got paid 6 emir a month, there is no way that a lazy beastkin who had only worked for half a year got more than six times that amount at 40 emir.

As it was right after a careless remark by him, the judge readily accepted my



This is different from the money I paid out earlier. I'm told that 20% of the lawsuit sum had to be deposited before the trial, and I got 40 emir out of that deposit as a consolation. I handed over all of it to him. It's higher than what he originally would have got, but I think the amount is just right to compensate for the trouble. We parted ways with the ape beastkin who was bowing repeatedly, and got back to our city tour. "--Eww." "This was a local specialty wasn't it." "But it does taste better than Gabo fruit." We entered the first diner we saw because we were starving, but the cuisine

left a lot to be desired.

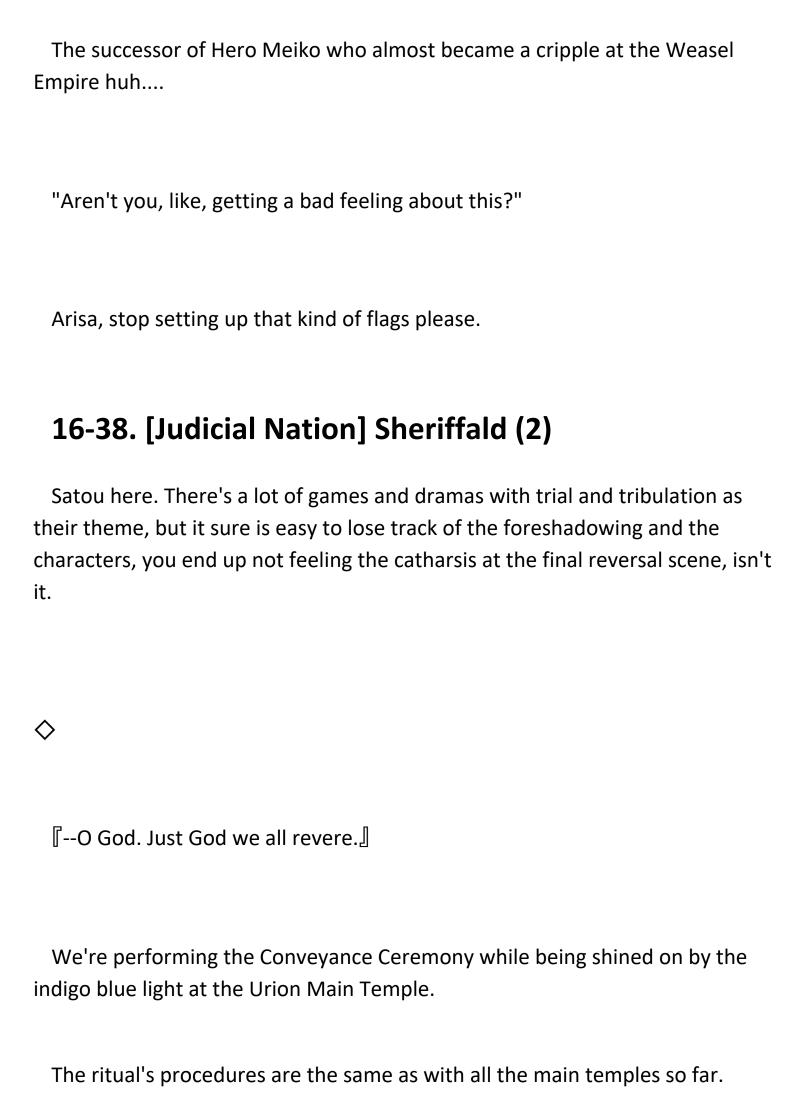


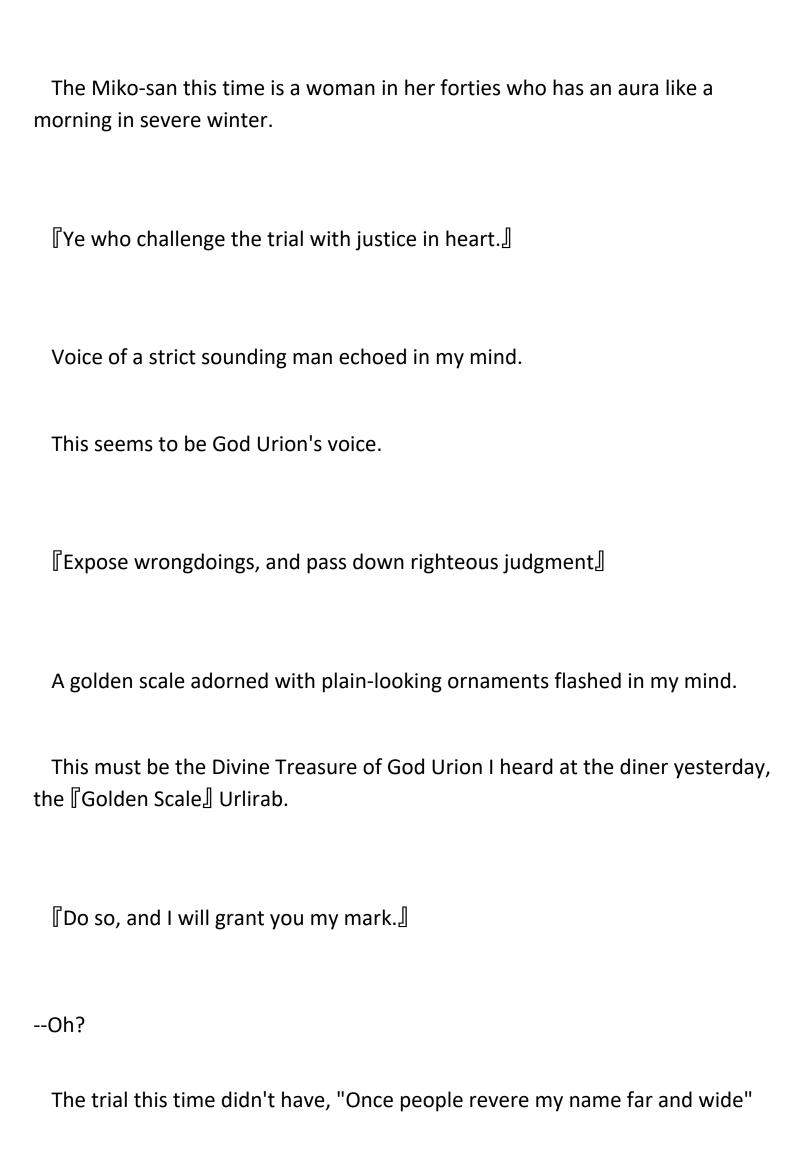


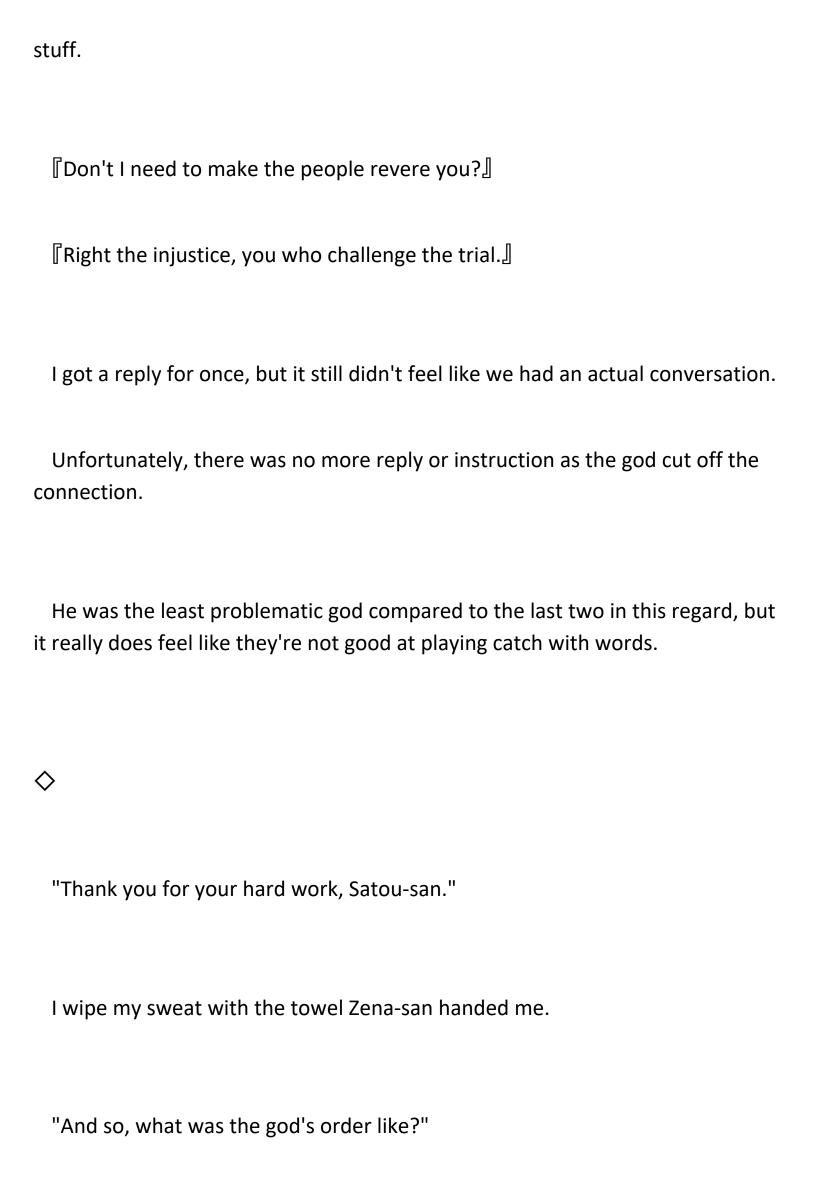
Potato dish had nothing against it.
I took this chance to ask for the landlady's permission and got some jam and butter out for the bread.
"Still, this country sure loves its trials."
Arisa grumbled while relishing on the bread.
Most of the parks we happened to see on our way here had ongoing trials under the blue sky.
"But I'm glad that they were all ordinary trials, besides that one time."
Zena-san muttered so while drinking the palate cleanser tea.
"What's this, are you guys here to attend the Trial of Scale at the capital's Judicial Bureau too?"
The landlady who seemed like she had nothing to do call out to us.

"-Trial of Scale?"
Come to think of it, the tour guidebook did mention that [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald had a peculiar trial.
"Yeap. It's a trial that makes use of God Urion's sacred treasure [Golden Scale] Ulrirab."
I see, the golden series this time is a scale huh.
"Libra, which means it's the old man But the younger version and the genderbent version might be available too right now."
Arisa's inner voice leaked out in low voice.
I know the reference, but control yourself a bit.
"How does it work?"
"It can see through sins that a Truth Discener's [Fathom] and the gift [Eye of Judgment] can't recognize."

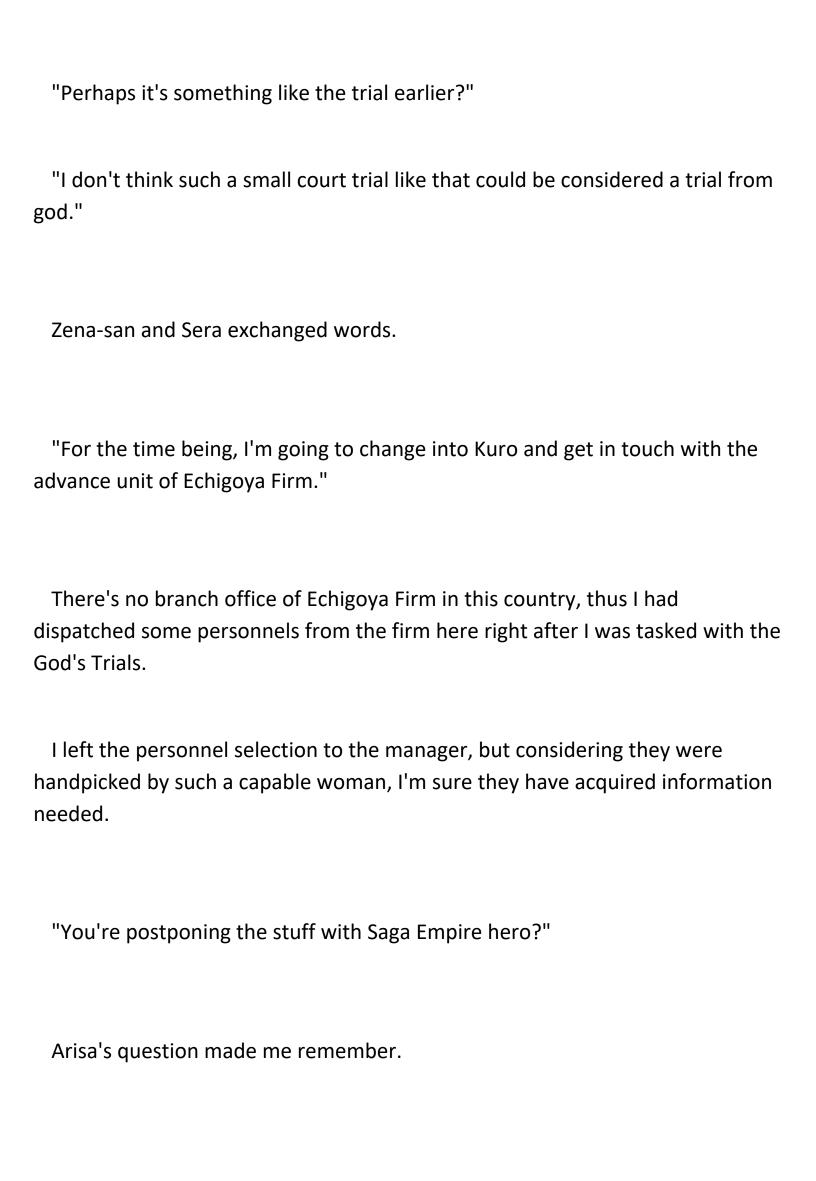


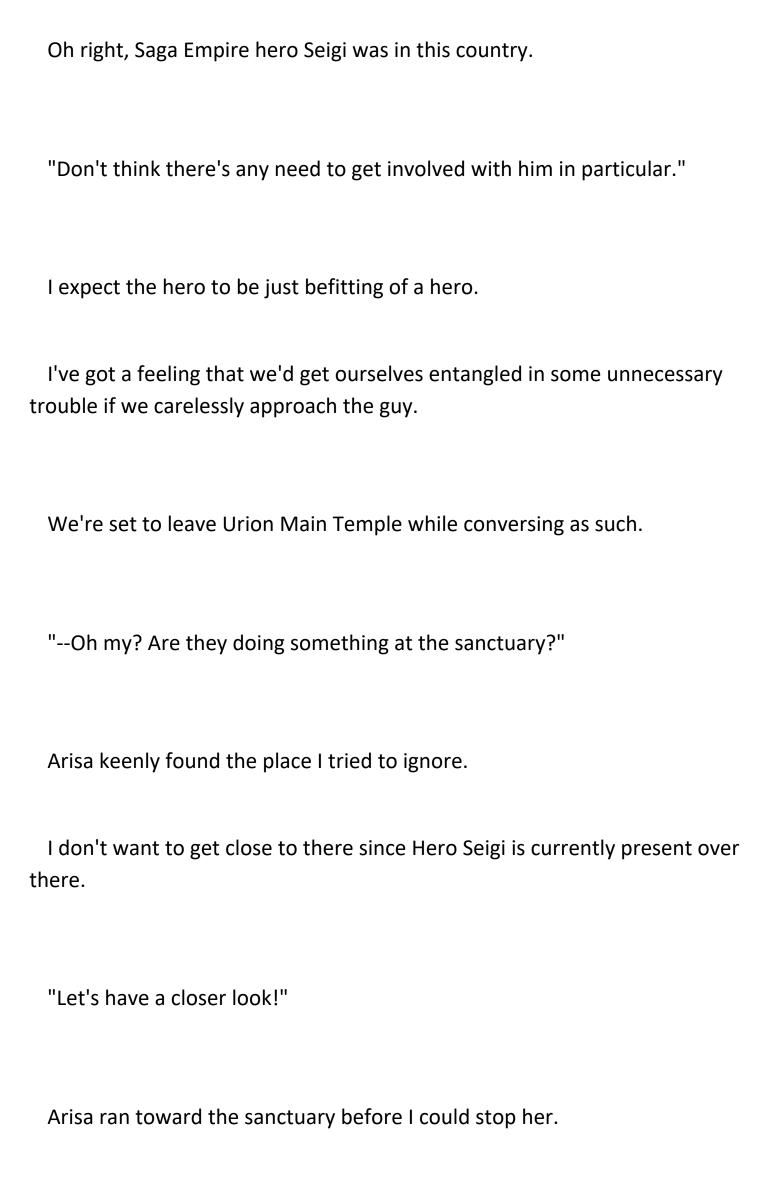


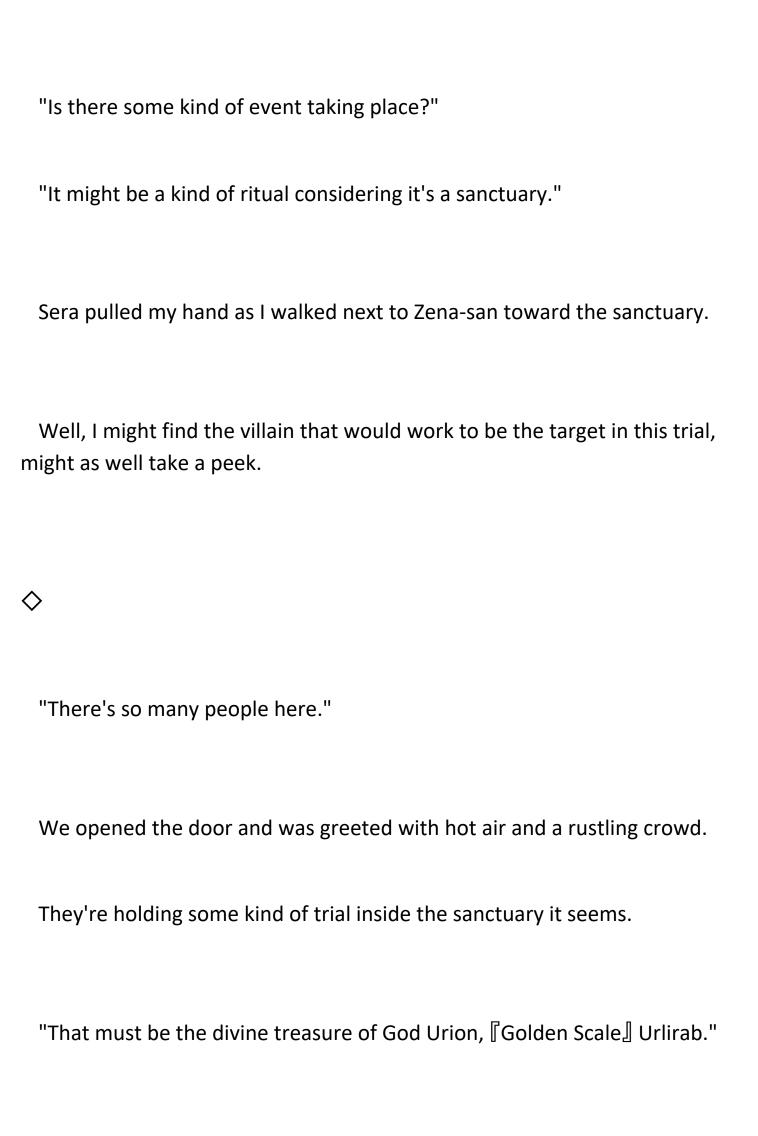


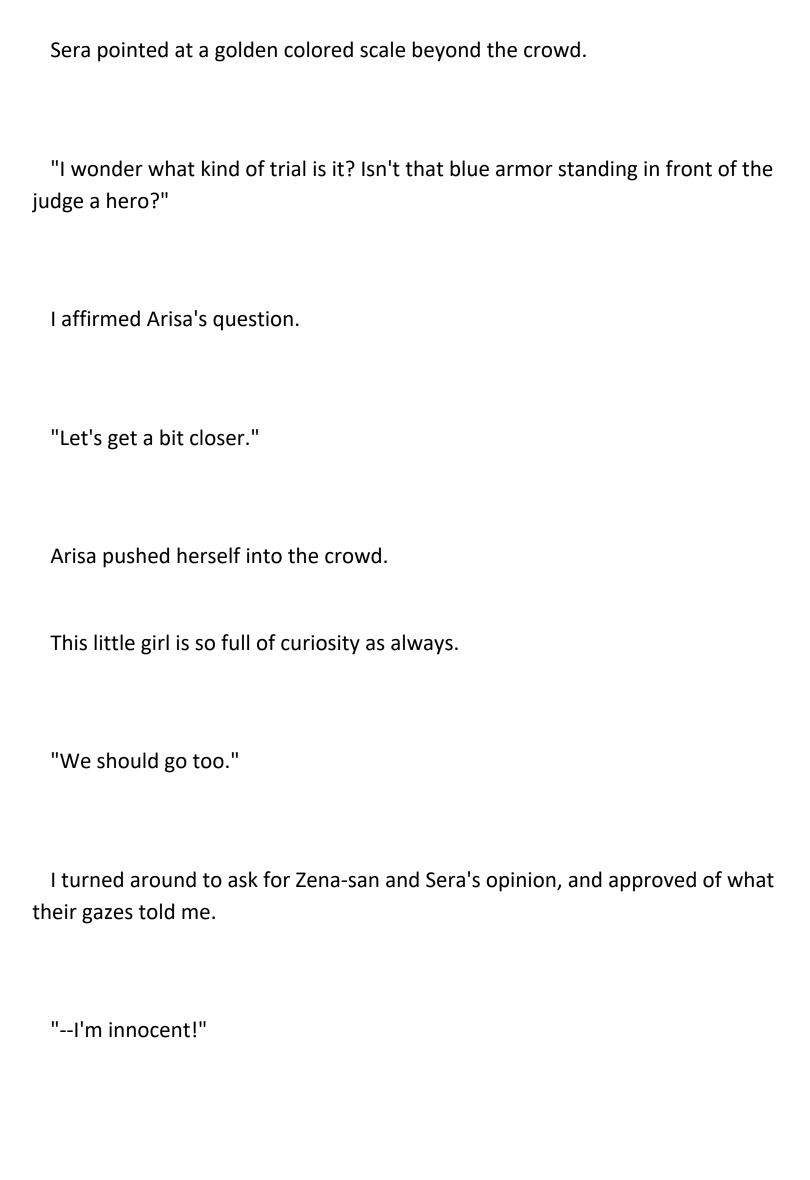




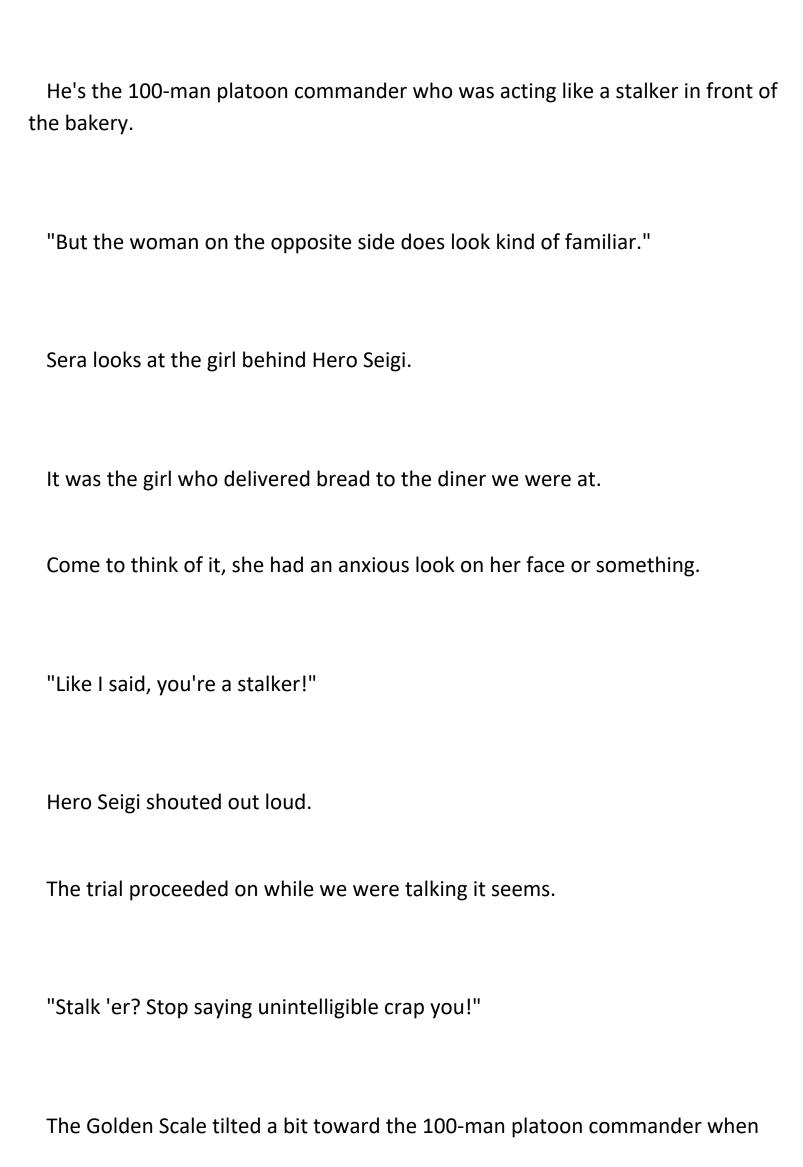


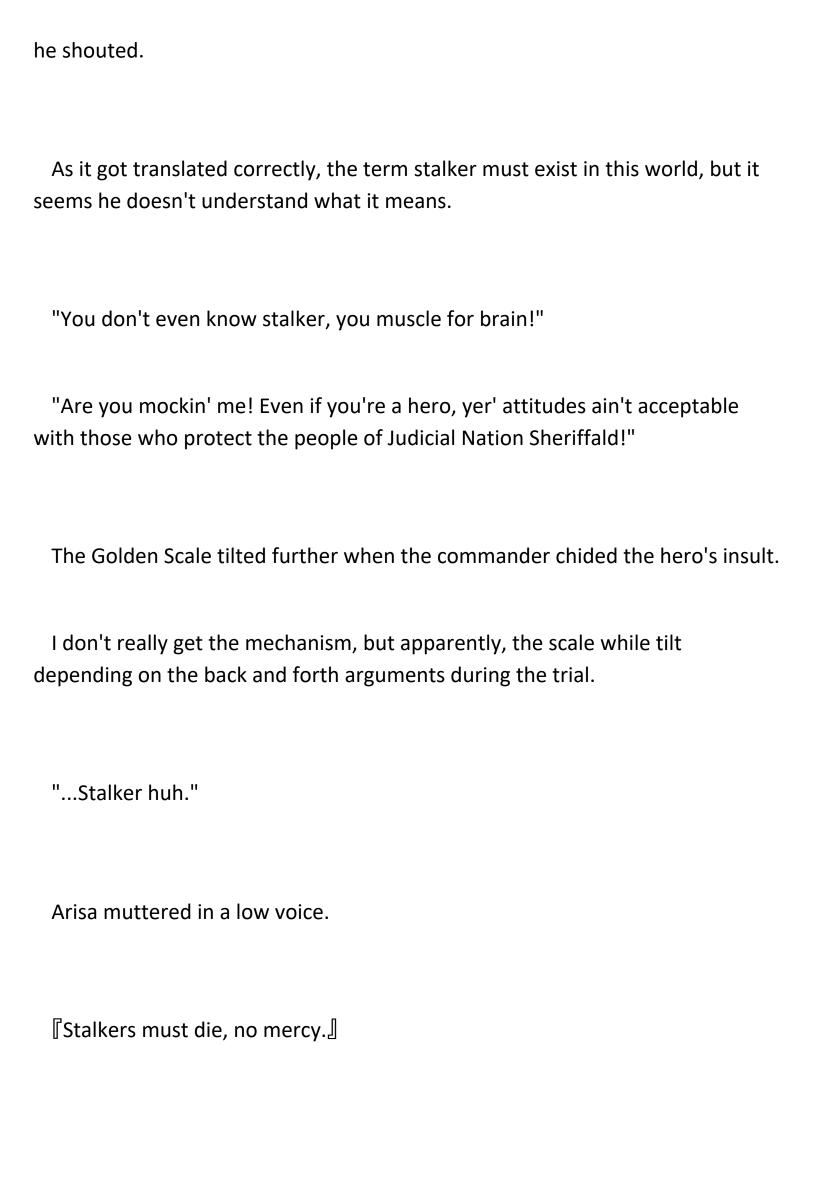




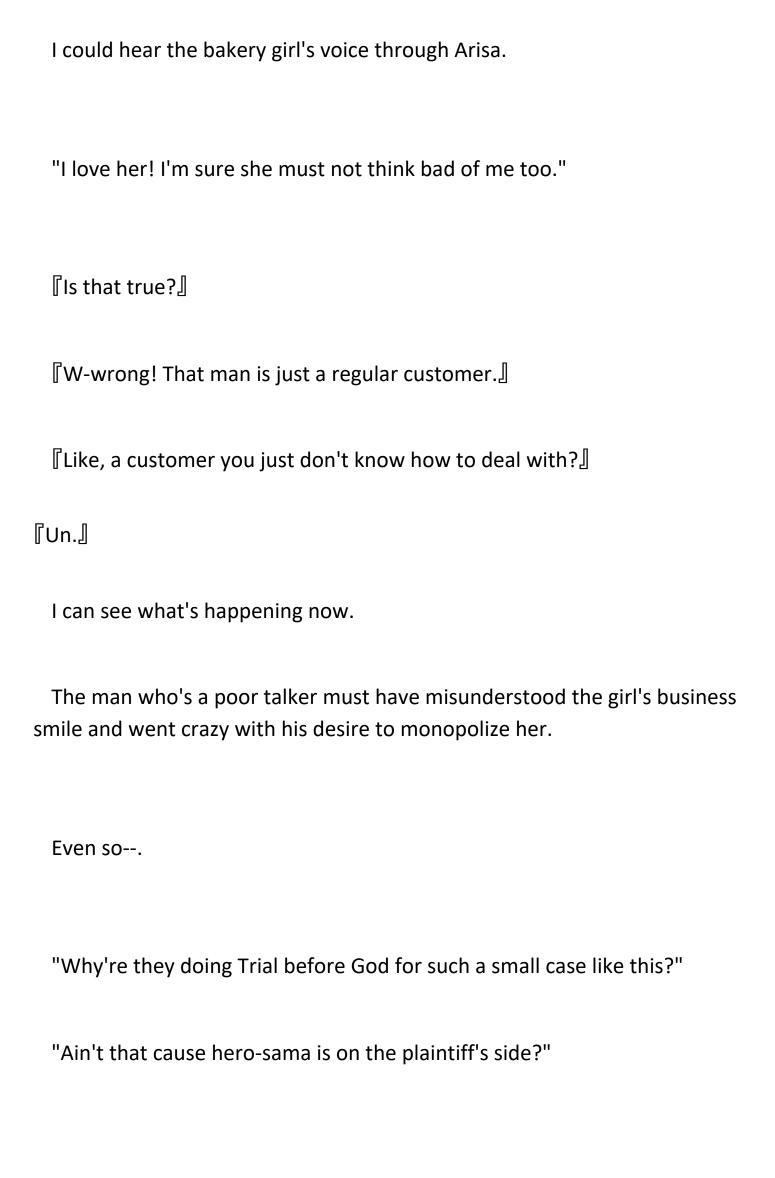


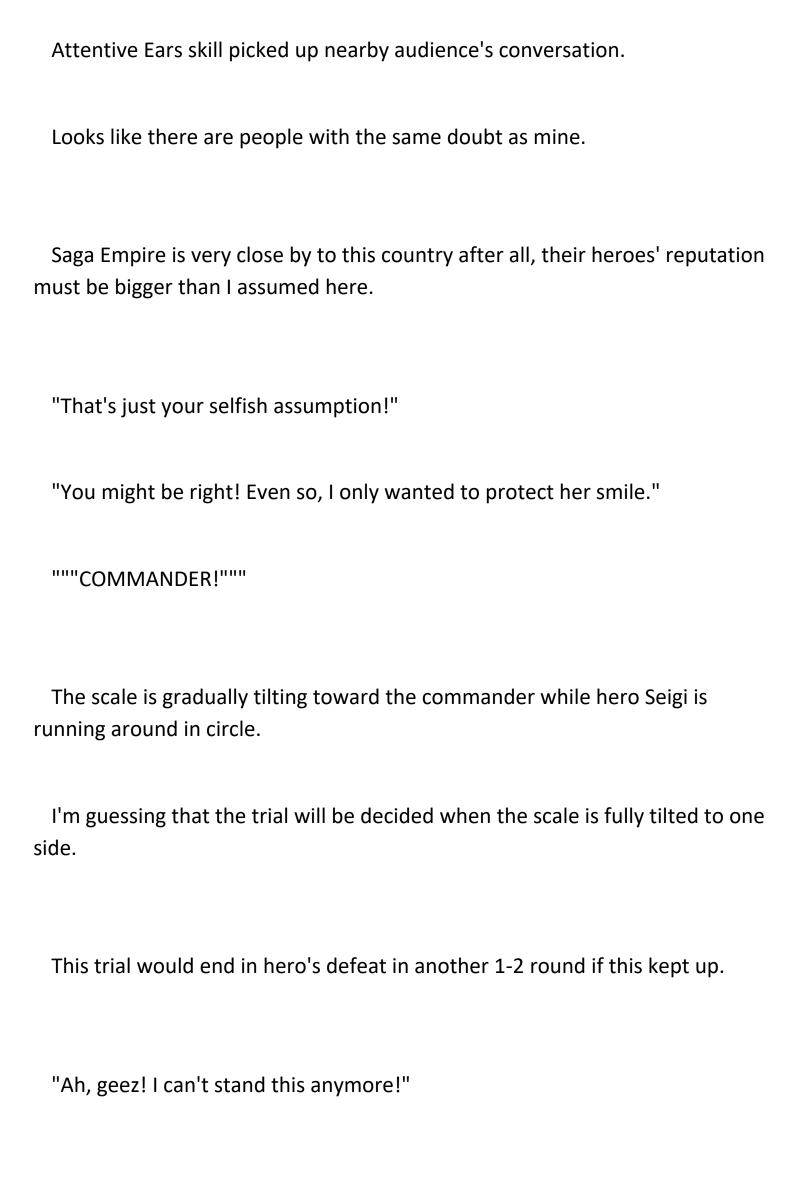








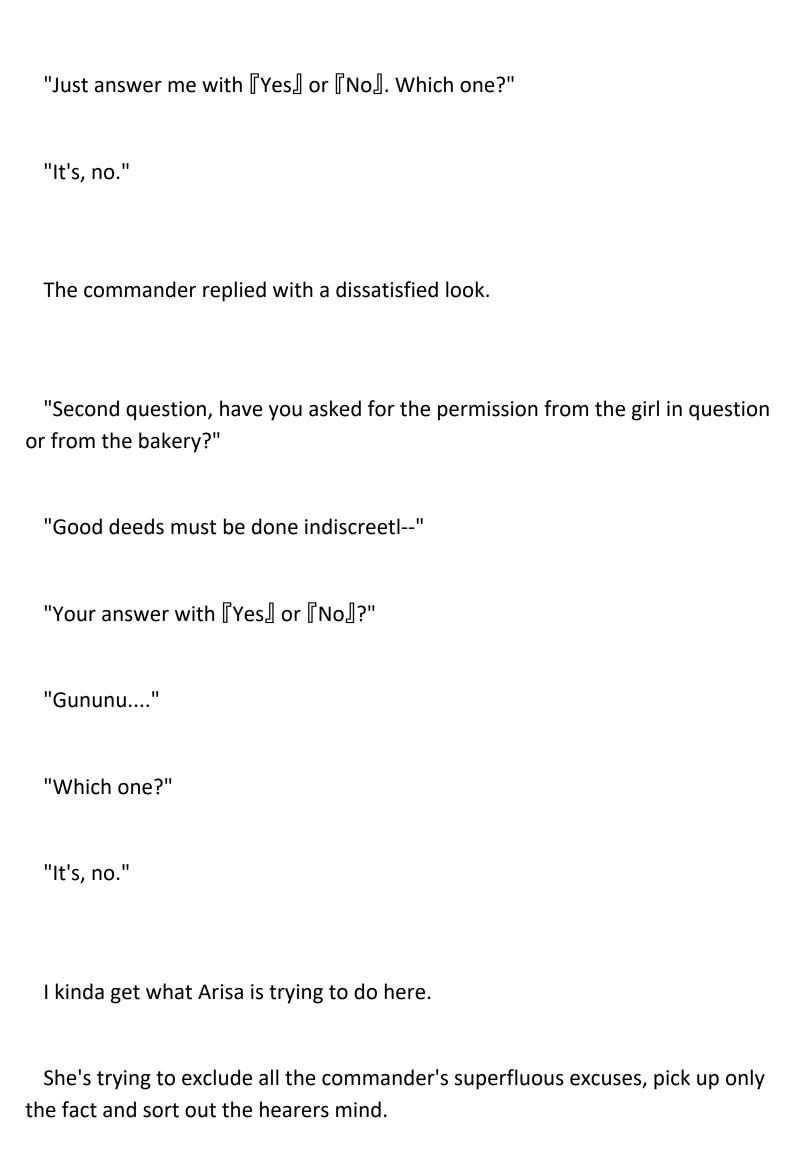






Hero Seigi who was going to rebut choked on his words when he saw Arisa. He's beet red up to his ears, is he not accustomed to being around girls or something. Arisa used the chance to talk to the bakery girl while hero Seigi was mumbling incoherently. "I have gotten the plaintiff's approval. We will be changing advocate." The trial continued once the presiding judge confirmed the bakery girl's nodding approval. "I would like to confirm four things! Answer me with [Yes] or [No]." Arisa look up confidently at the 100-man platoon commander. "First question, you said you were watching over the bakery. Was that a part of your official duty?"

"It's not! It's out of good will."

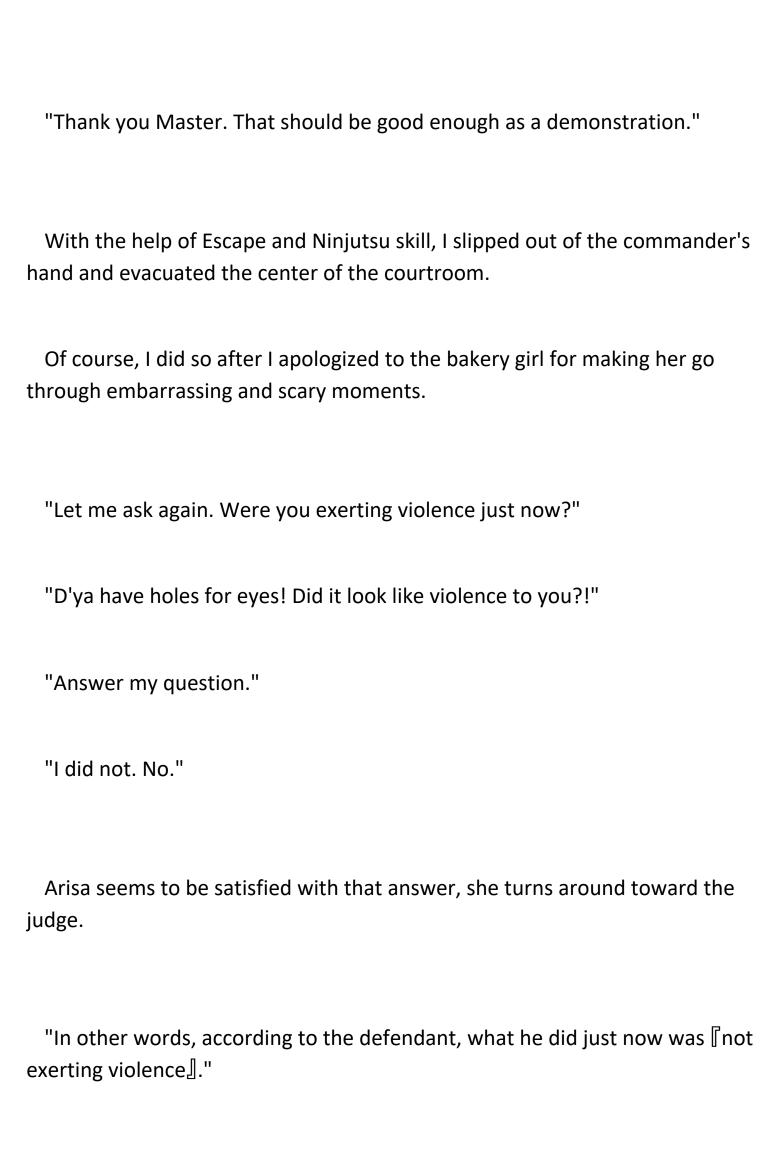






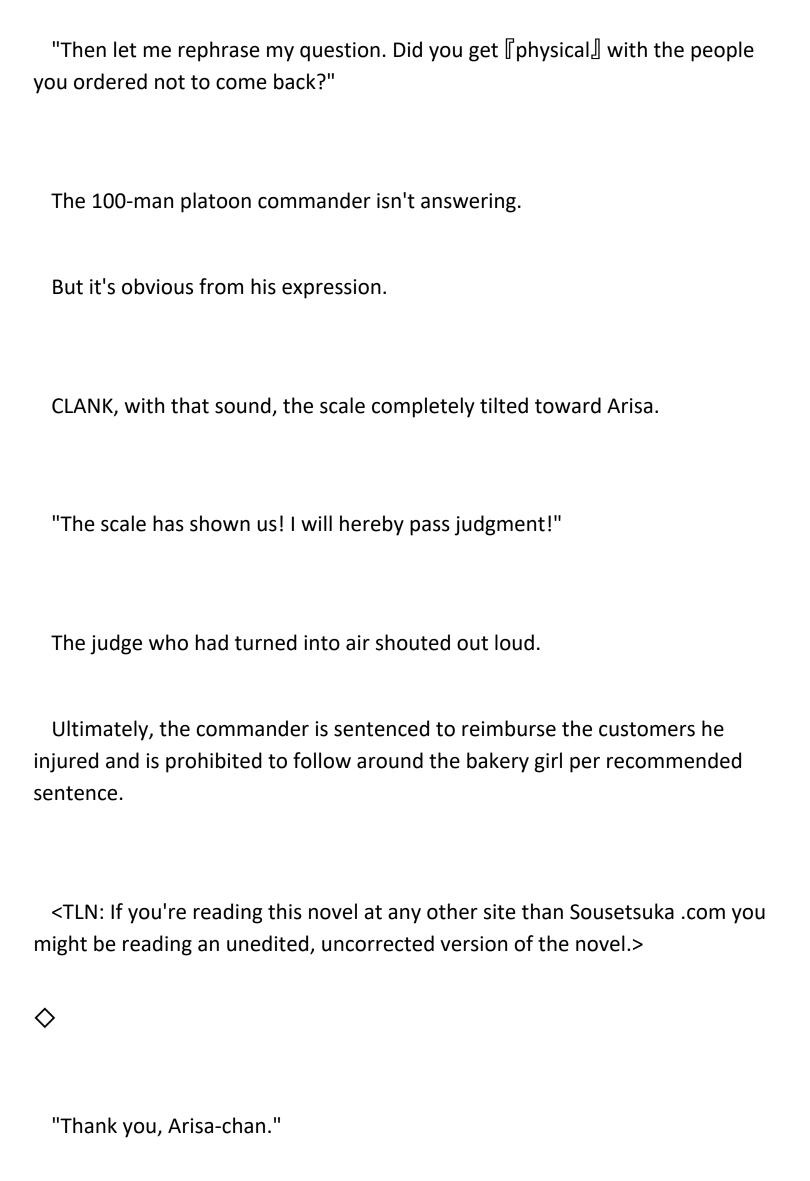


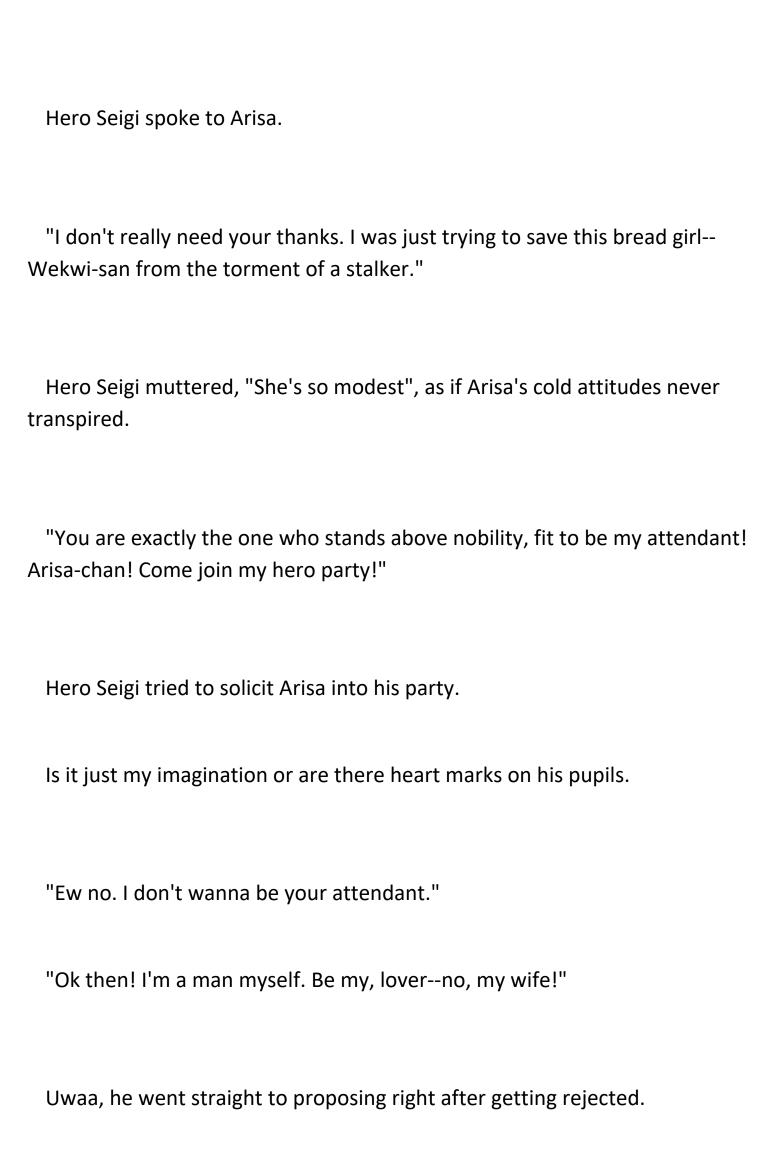


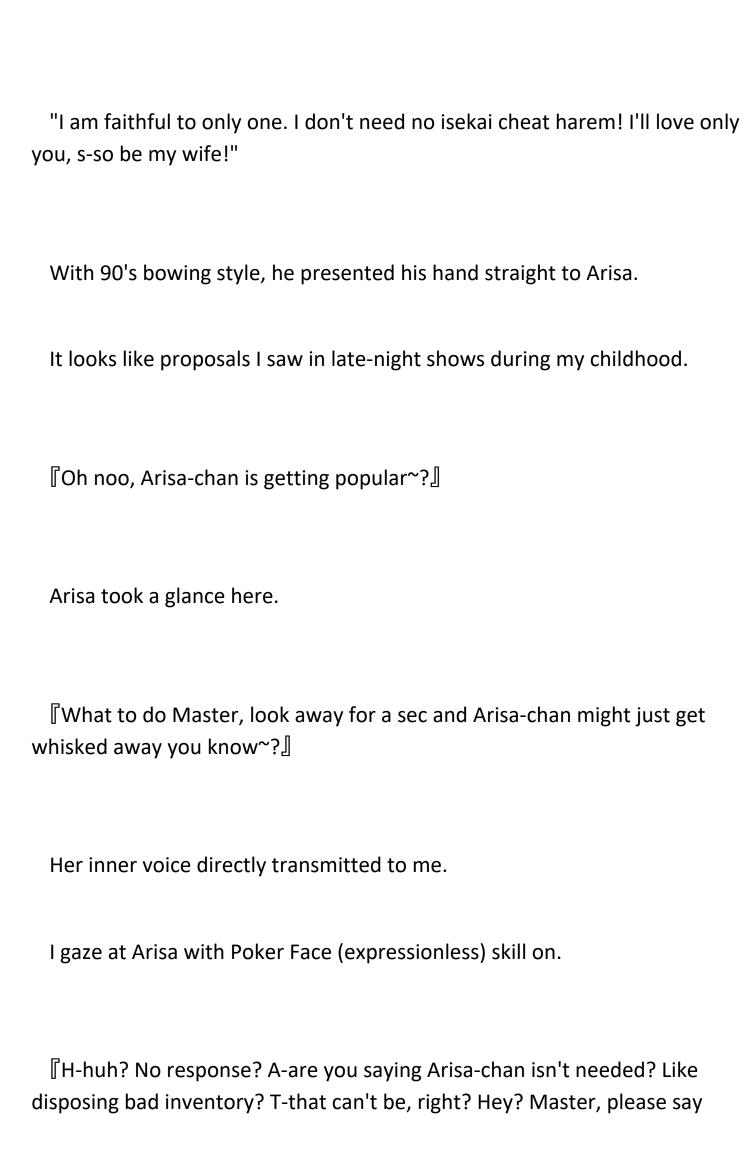


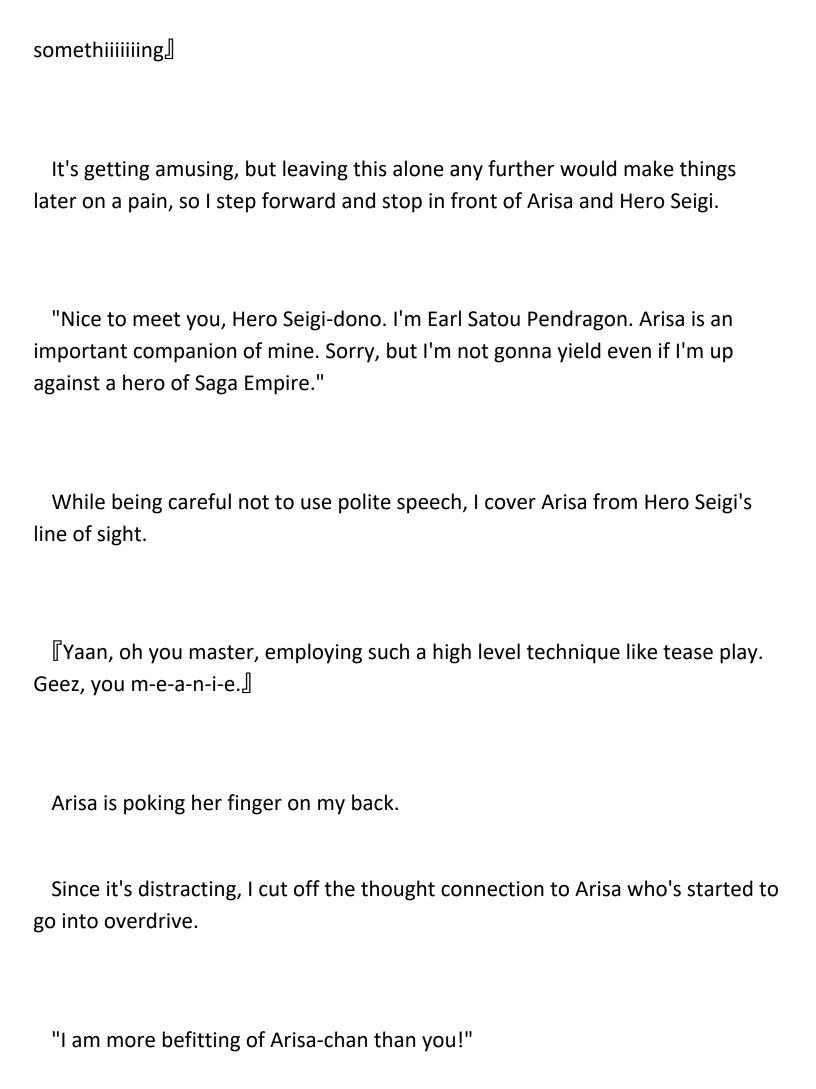
The judge nods with a serious look.
The atmosphere in the courtroom is tilting toward Arisa due to the chain of events just now.
Even the scale whose tilting slightly changed knows that.
This time she's asking the bakery girl's side.
"Hey, have you ever asked for help whenever a customer tried to flirt with you?"
"N-no. It happens often when I'm running the counter so"
"Well, figured as much."
Arisa continues further.
"While not in his official duty as a national soldier, not on the request of the bakery owner or the girl, this guy was monitoring the bakery with personal motives, and even though she didn't ask for help, he coerced only those who I tried to flirt with the bakery girl with terrible attitudes like he demonstrated

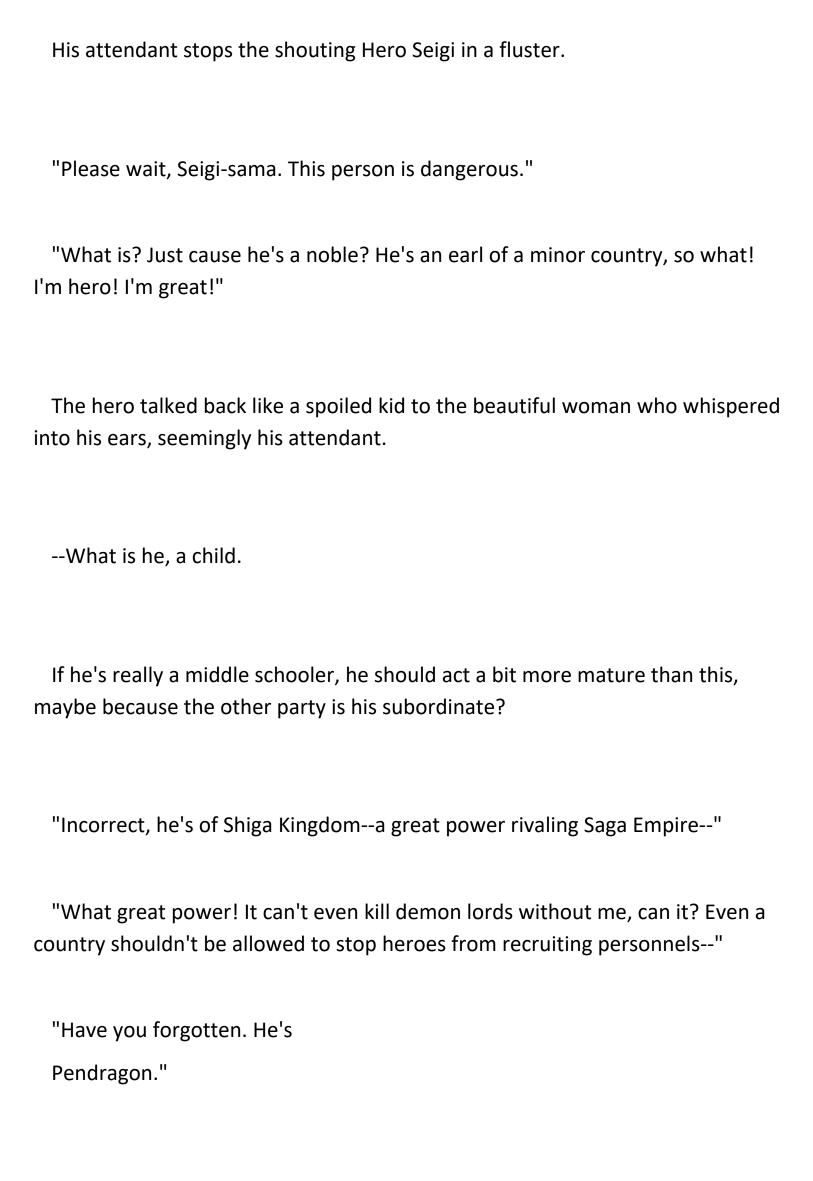
earlierare all this normal in this country?"
Arisa paused a bit to wait for the audience to chew through her words, and then she spoke of that query.
The scale tilts toward Arisa.
"That guy punched me!"
"Me too!"
"He only pushed me, but then he threatened me that there is no next time!"
It seems like there were people who had experience of getting threatened by the commander among the crowd.
They were probably too scared to present their testimony until now.
"My my? Didn't you say you never exert violence?"
"T-that's not violence. It's just retribution!"

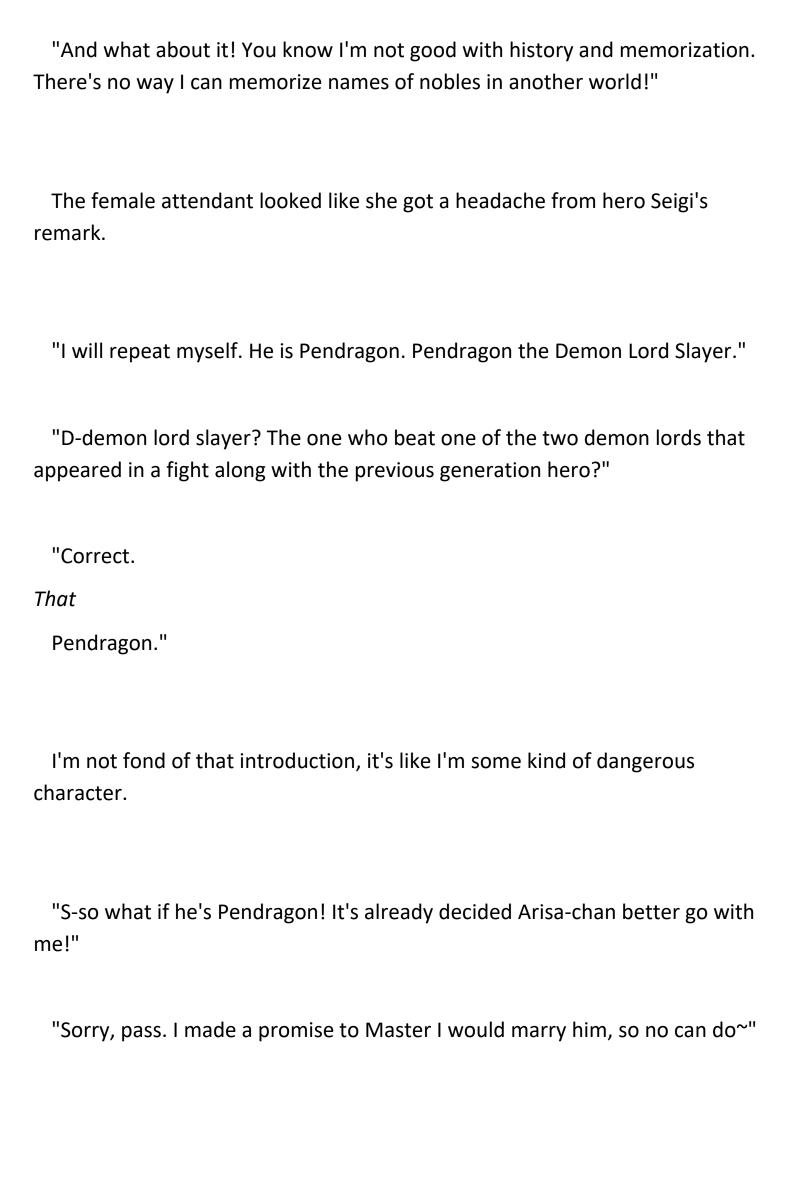




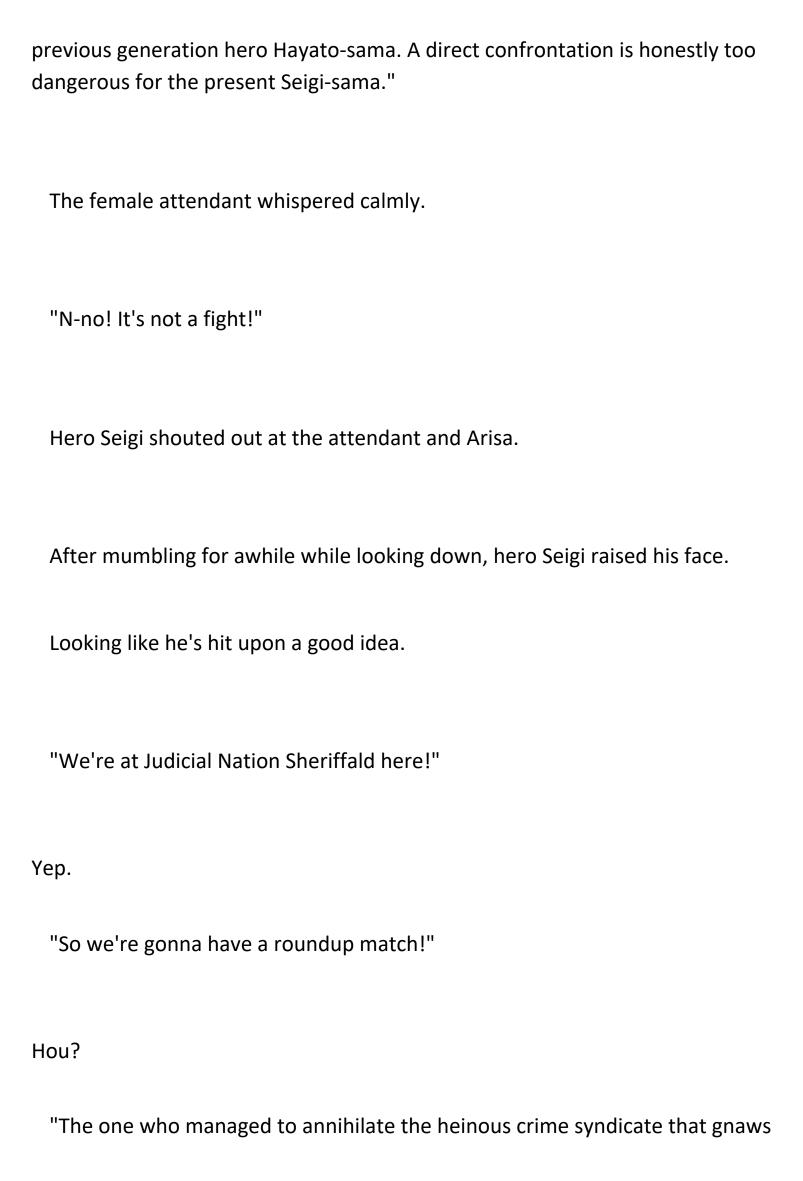














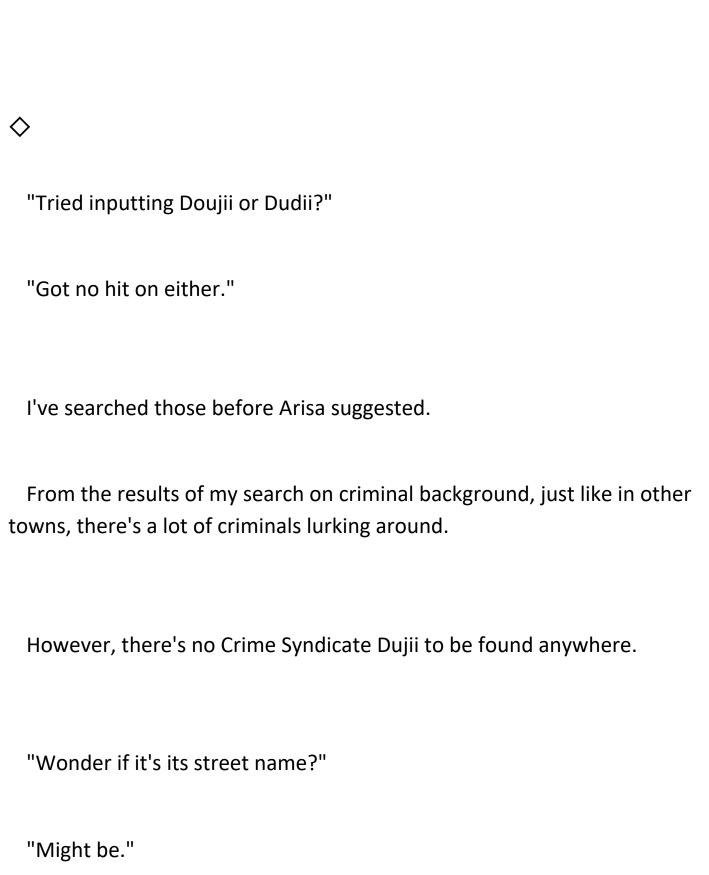
I open the Map and look for crime syndicate Dujii.

And the result is--

"n/a?"

16-39. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (3)

Rumors about plausible-sounding underworld of society and illegal websites circulating among people might have the same appeals as a certain urban legend. The thing that piqued curiosity isn't whether it exist or not, but that it really might exist.



Map Search would have found it even if it were concealed, but things get tricky if the case here is where the real organization name and the well-known name differs.
"If Master is thinking of using some special searching method, maybe Sera and I'd better go back to base?"
Arisa whispered in my ear.
She's probably being considerate since both of them may have god's back doors on them.
"Nah, there's no need for that."
I don't think we'll get to the point of needing to use cheat skills this time.
Besides, I've got no response from the equipment to trace back the back door the two are wearing.
Looks like gods don't have the time to frequently peek at this world either.

As for these backdoor re-tracer, the mechanism works by indirectly measuring Divinity from the change in Miasma and Magic Power.

The tool doesn't react to my [Unit Arrangement] and Sera's holy magic, but I've confirmed that it did react to Divinity back when I received the [God's Trial] earlier, so it should work properly.

"I'll be heading to Echigoya Firm to collect information, everyone, could you do the same at the inn and other local stores?"

The girls agreed to my suggestion.

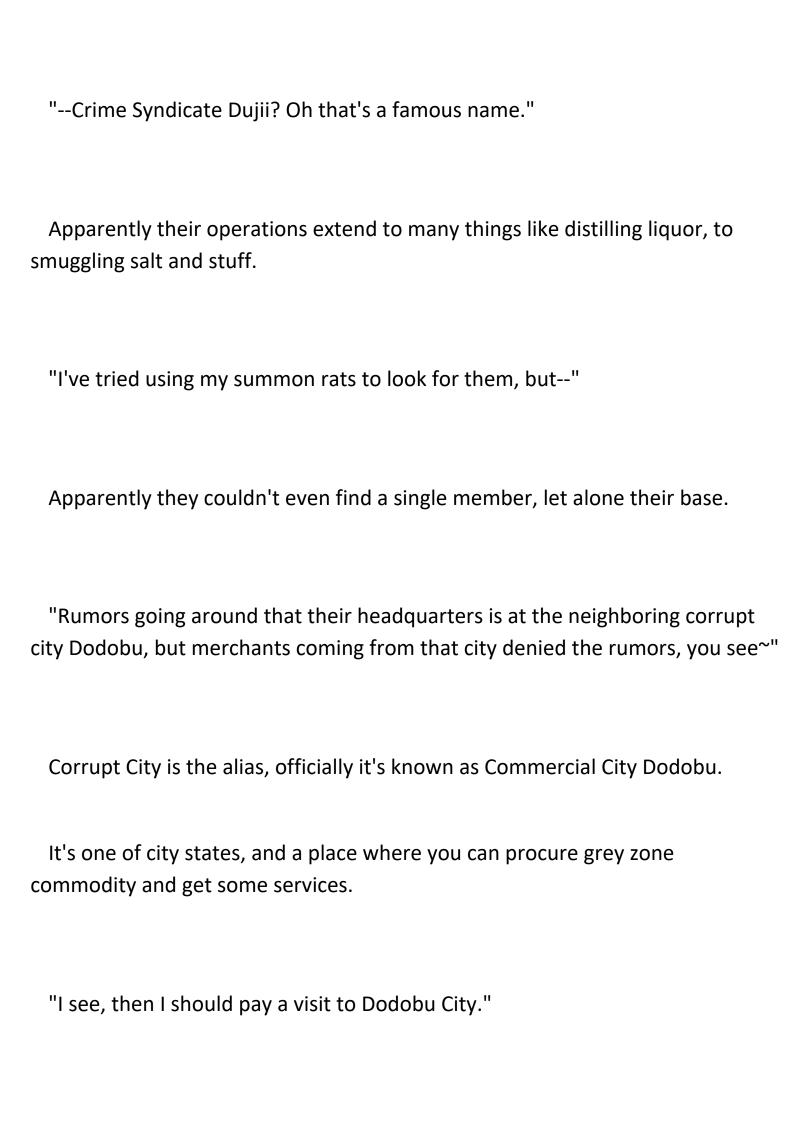
I changed into Kuro in a back alley and went to the inn where the advance party of Echigoya Firm is staying.

"Kuro-sama!"

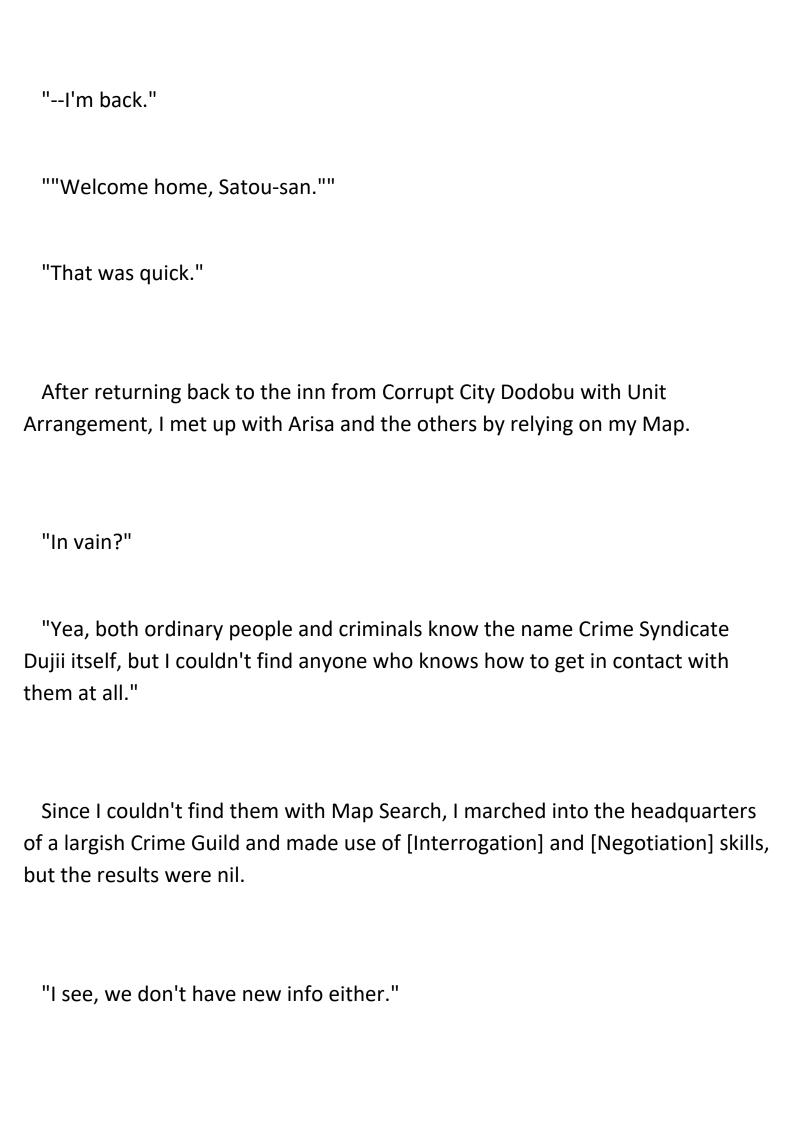
The advance party was a noble girl working directly under Echigoya Firm's manager, Elterina.

She can use summoning magic, hence she's got a variety of ways to secretly gather info and get in touch with someone.

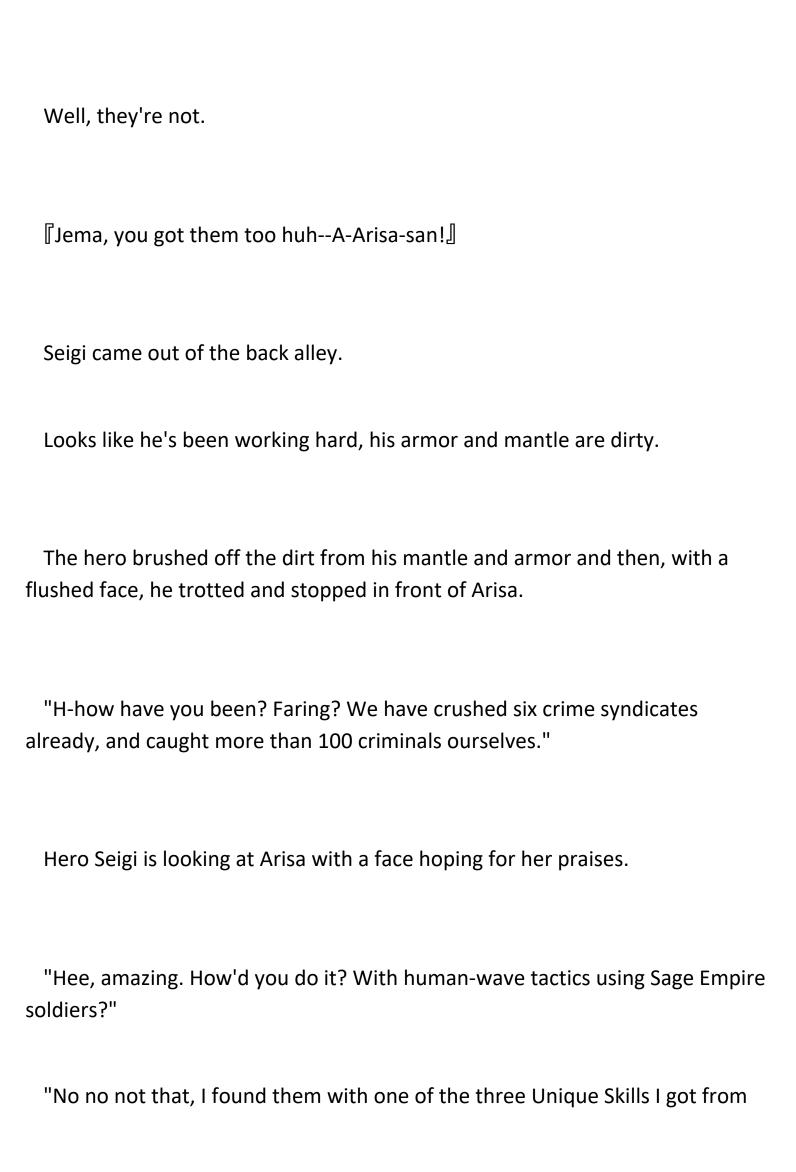
I immediately got down to business.

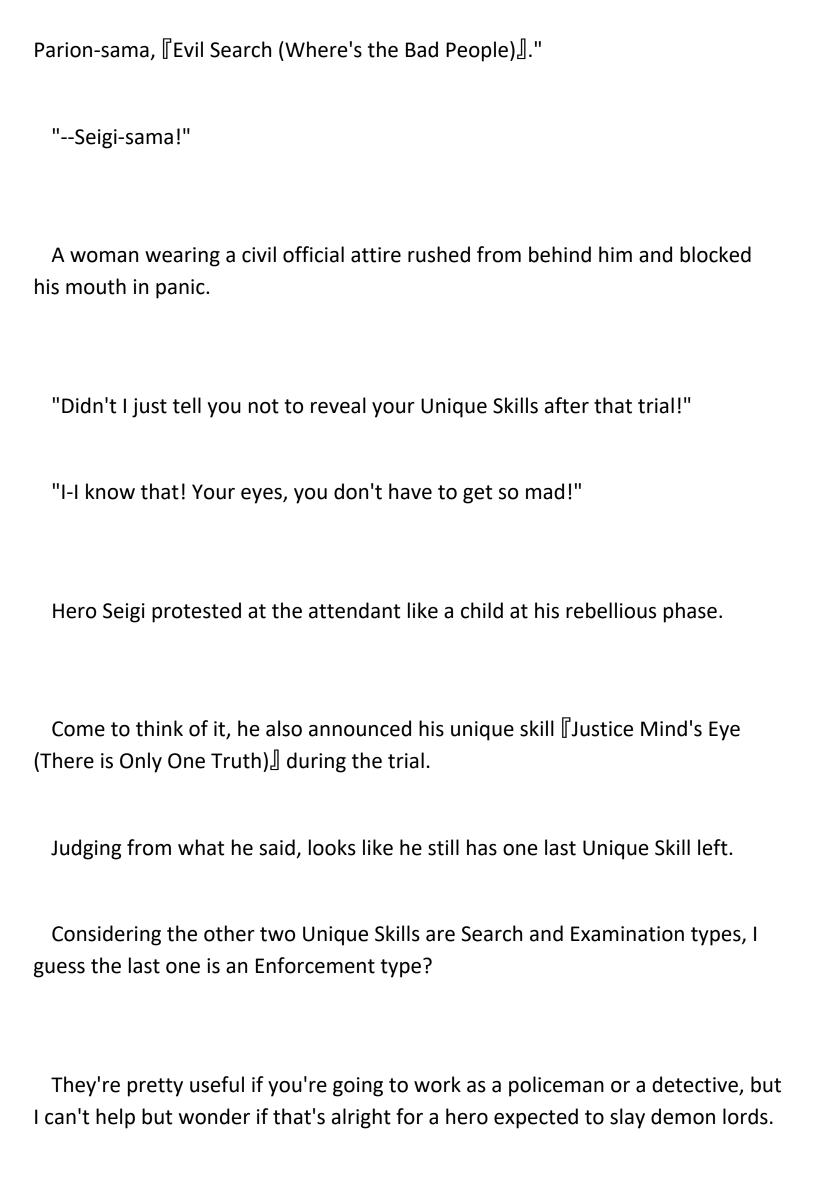


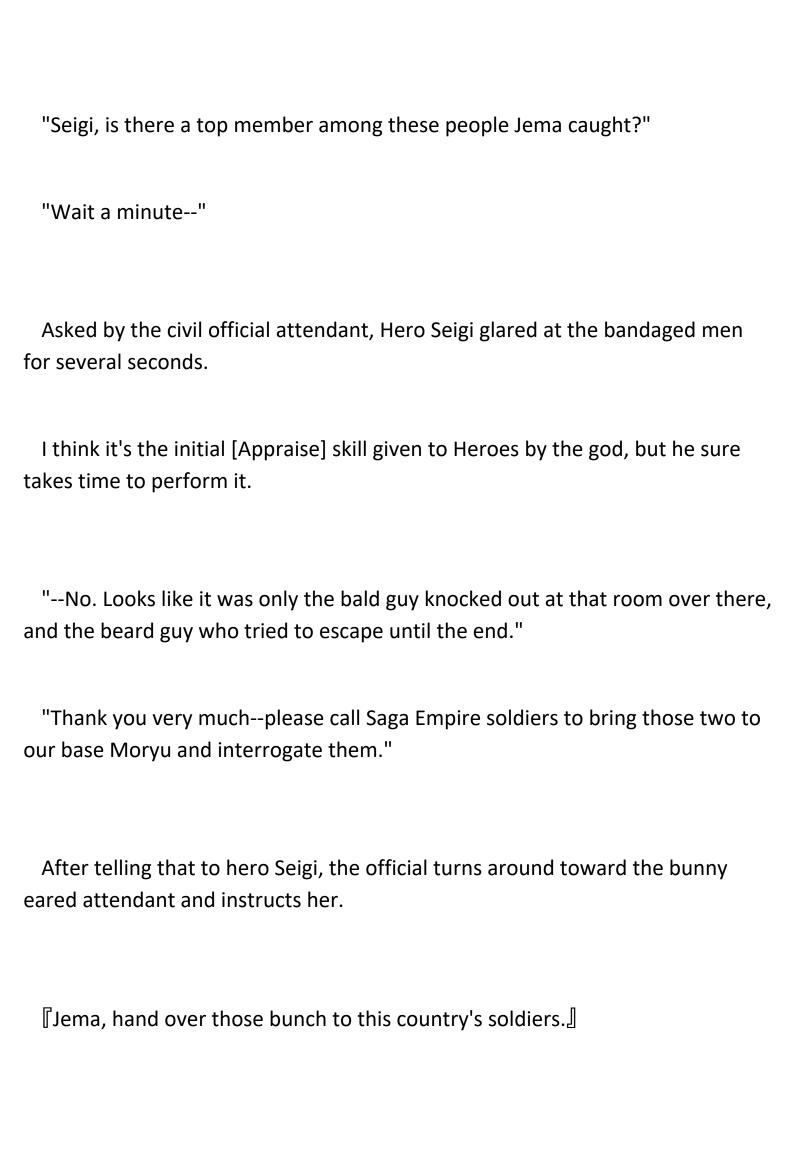
After showing my appreciations to the noble girl, I asked her to continue gathering more info about Crime Syndicate Dujii.
[Apparently, Crime Syndicate Dujii's hq is at the Commercial City Dodobu, I'll be going there for a bit.]
I gotchabut don't think of going to some lewd onee-san's store just because you're heading alone to the Corrupt City Dodobu, okay.
Looks like Arisa and the girls knew about Dodobu City from their own network of information.
『Yeah, of course.』
I replied instantly while making sure that my voice wasn't shaking from the guilty consciences with the help of Poker Face skill.
No choice.
Let's postpone the visit to the pretty onee-san establishment for later.
\diamond

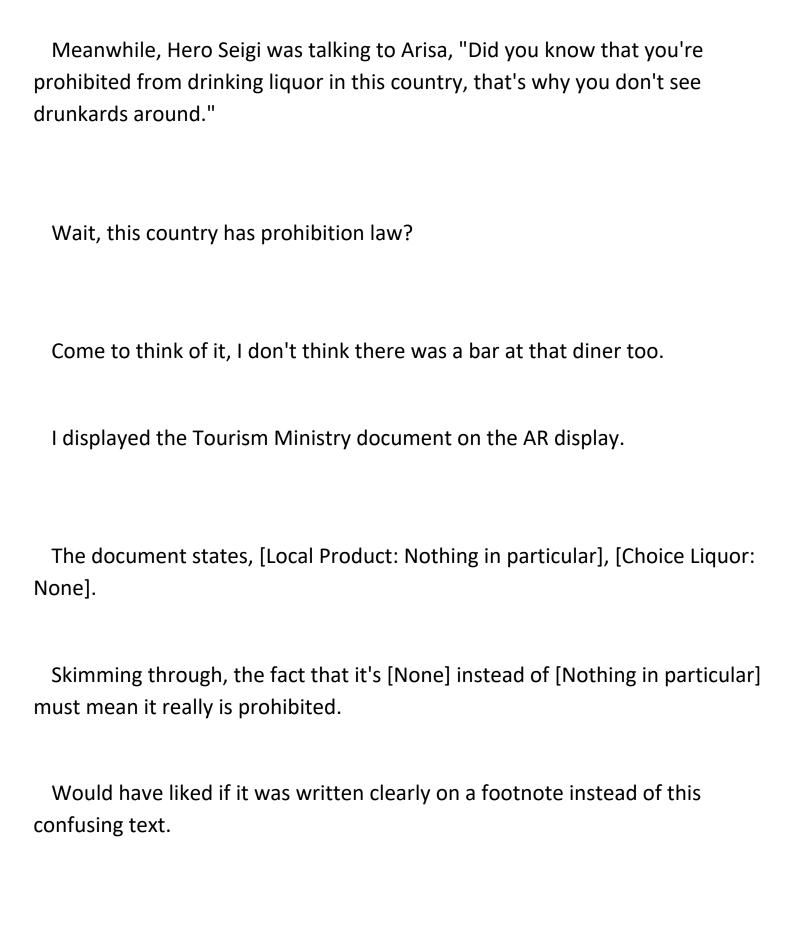












Well, since this is a country where Shiga Kingdom absolutely has no diplomatic relations with, forget embassy, there's not even any spy situated here, I guess it's only natural.

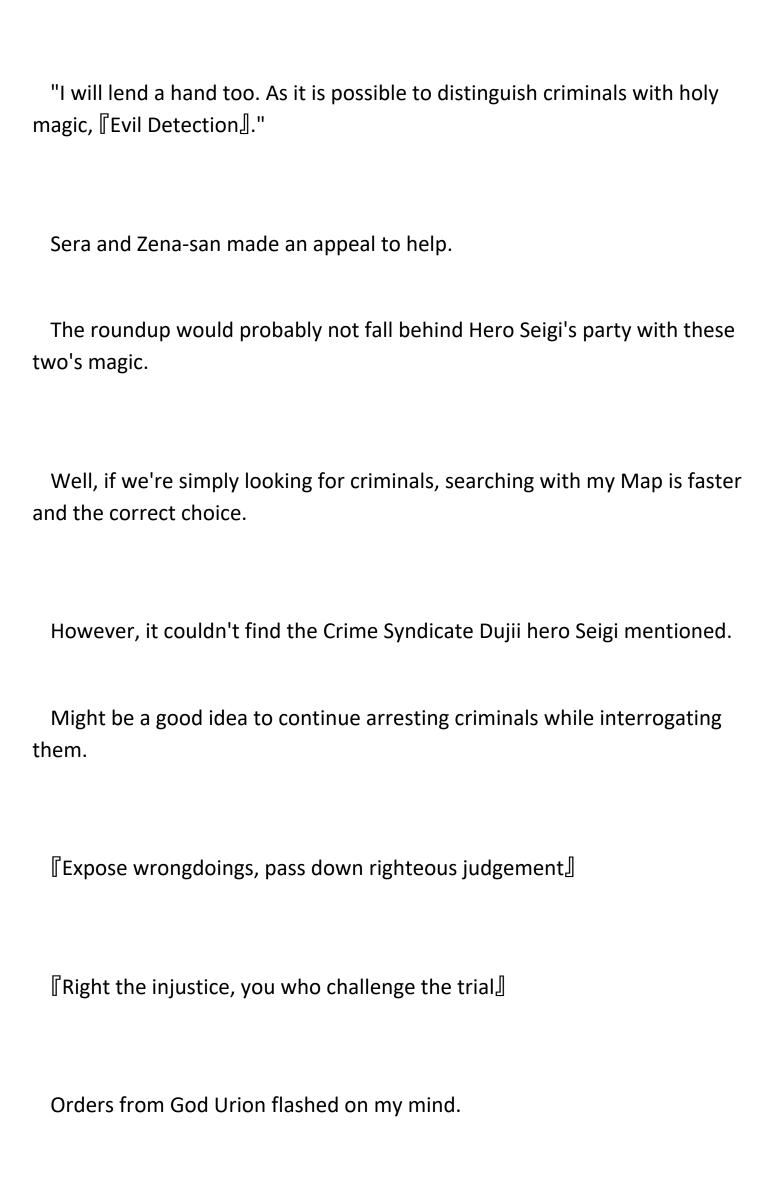
[&]quot;Seigi, can you still go on?"

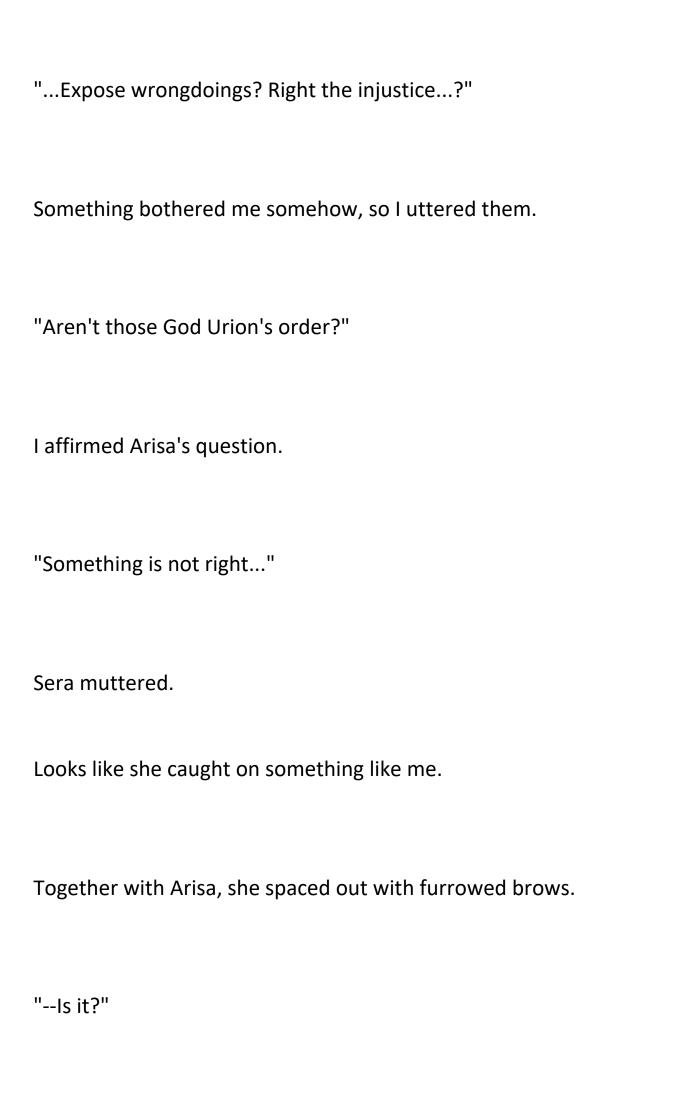
"Yea, no problem. I can still use [Evil Search (Where's the Bad People)] a few more times." The official attendant made a sour look to hear hero Seigi who completely didn't get what she just admonished him earlier. Looks like she's got quite the work cut out for her. <TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.> "What should we do? Master?" Maybe it was due to the fact that Hero Seigi's skills has a surprisingly good compatibility with criminal search, Arisa's voice was mixed with fluster. "Satou-san, should we split up and search too?"

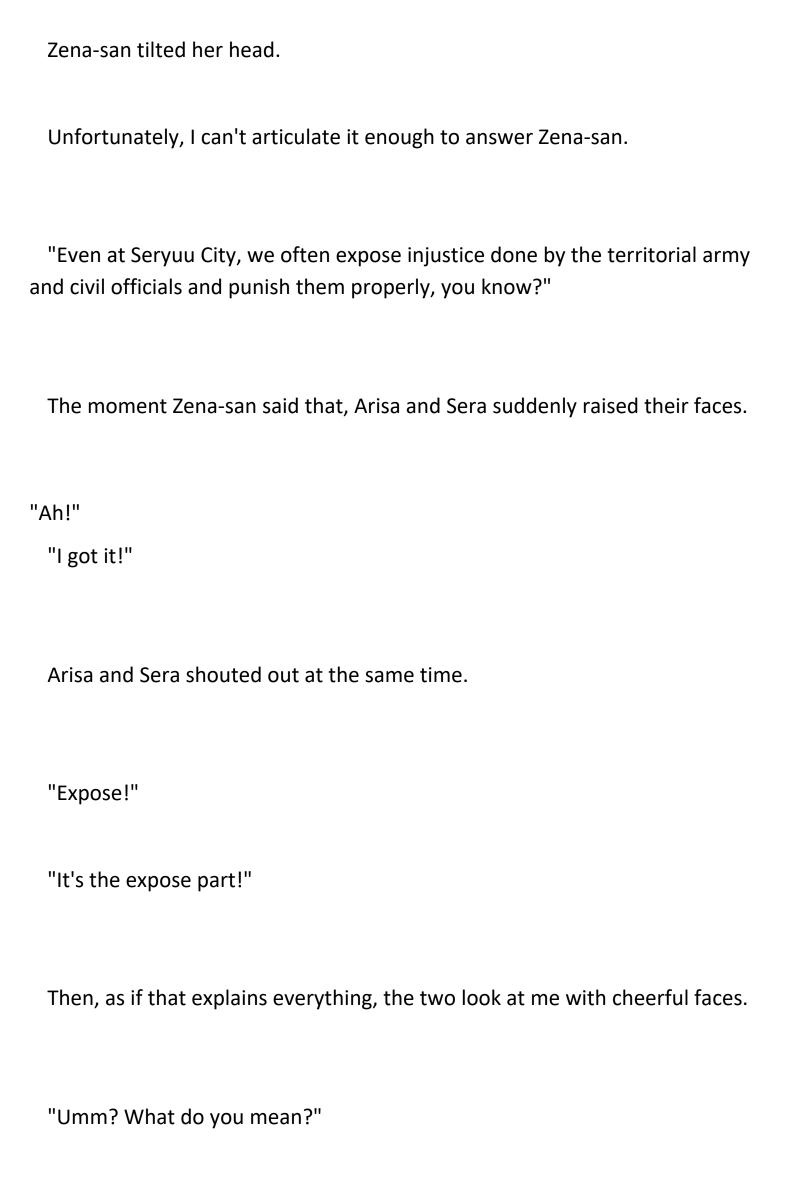
"Let me help the search with wind magic! The miasma around criminals' bases

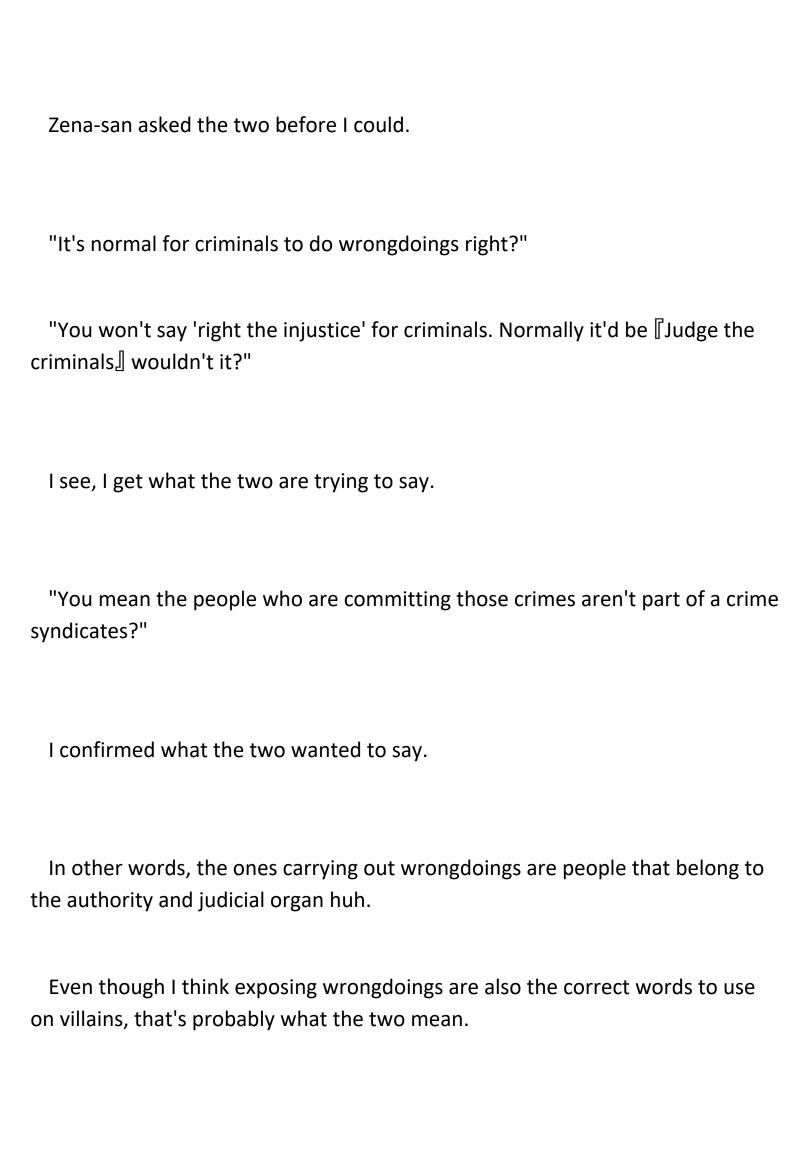
of operations is usually quite thick, I could narrow them down with advanced

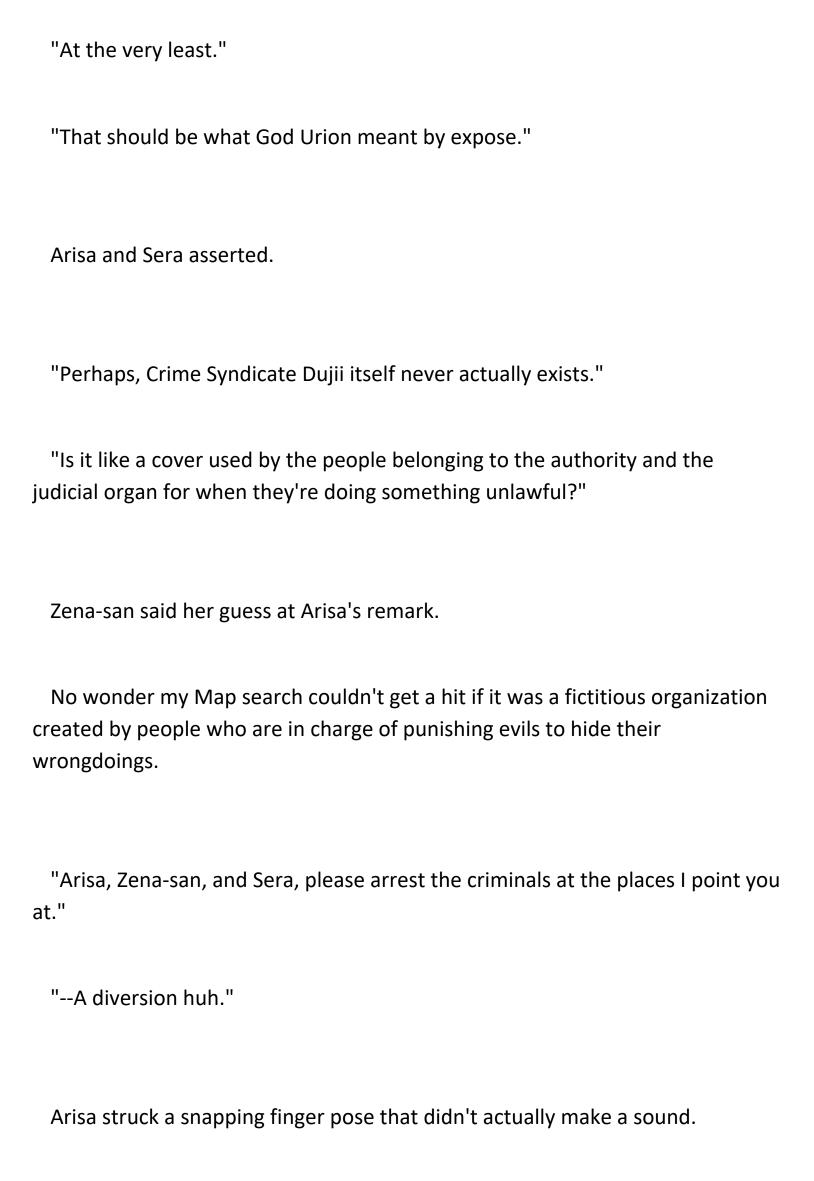
level wind magic."











"Exactly."

Even if we know that it's the authority and judicial organ, the number of people is too big, thus I intend to cause them unrest by randomly arresting criminals who are likely connected to them.

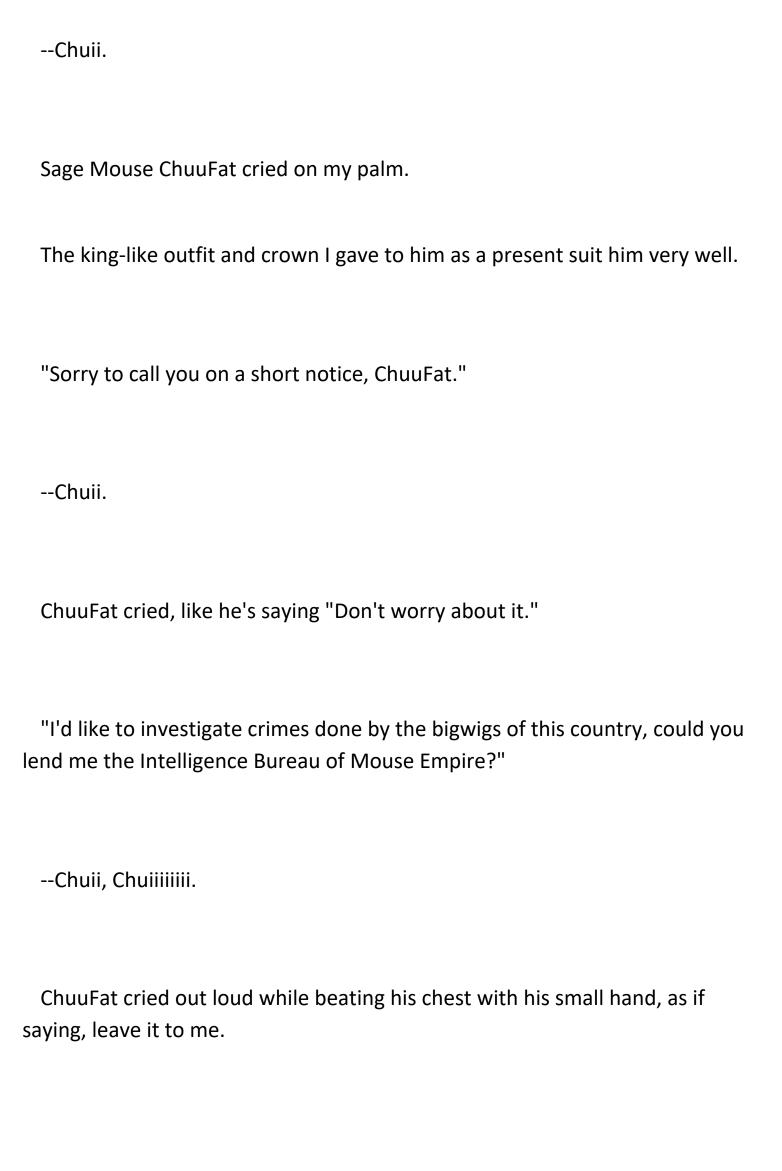
"Besieging them would be troublesome with just you three alone, take the living doll unit from the airship with you."

The heroes should have been enough to act as a diversion, but either his Unique Skill has a limited range, or they carry prejudice on the downtown, they've been ignoring the crime syndicates at the high streets.

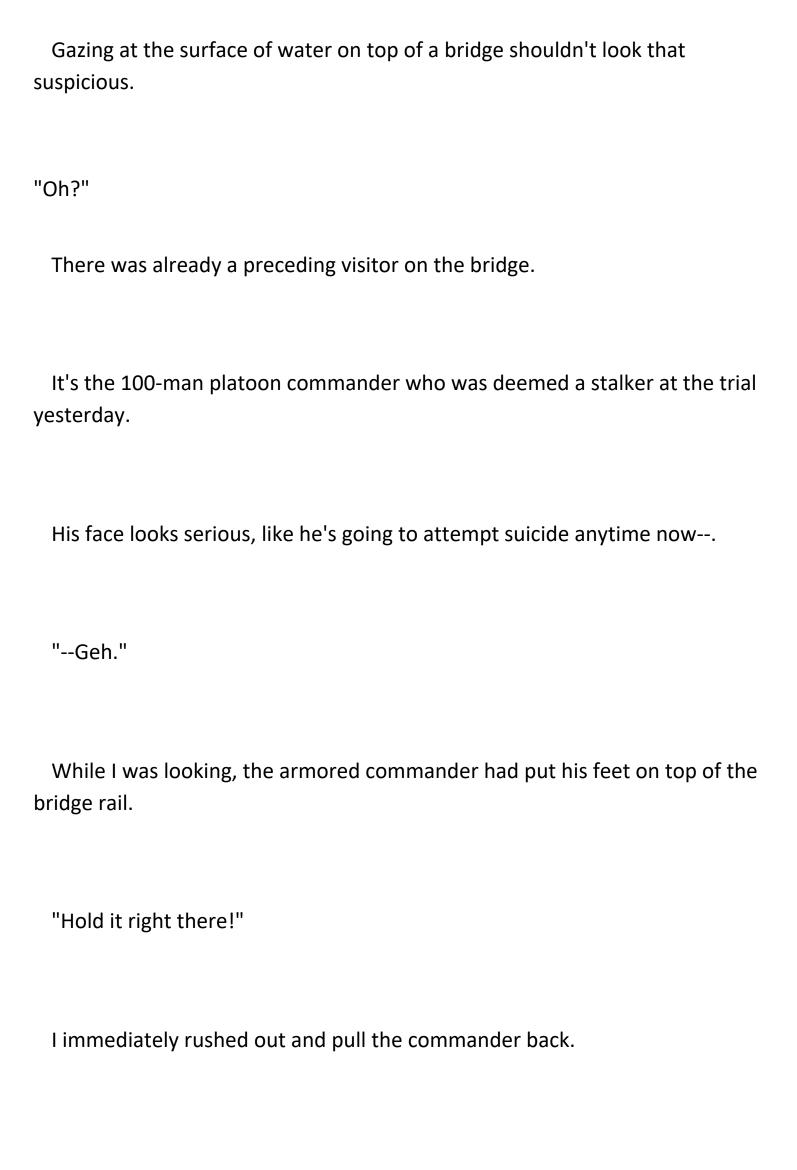
"Will Master watch over through magic?"

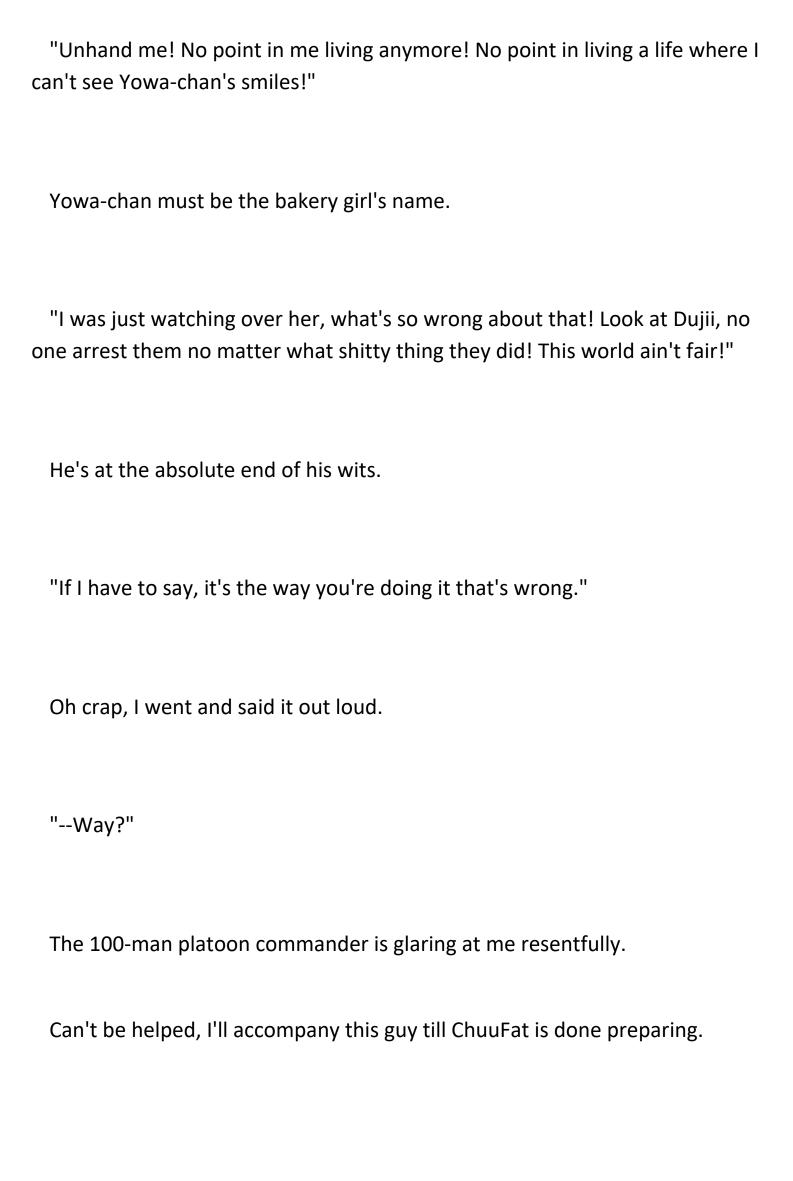
"I can't possibly do it all alone, I'll be relying on reinforcements, you see."

After seeing off Arisa and the others running off toward the airship, I went behind a shadow and summoned a reliable reinforcement from the capital with Unit Arrangement.



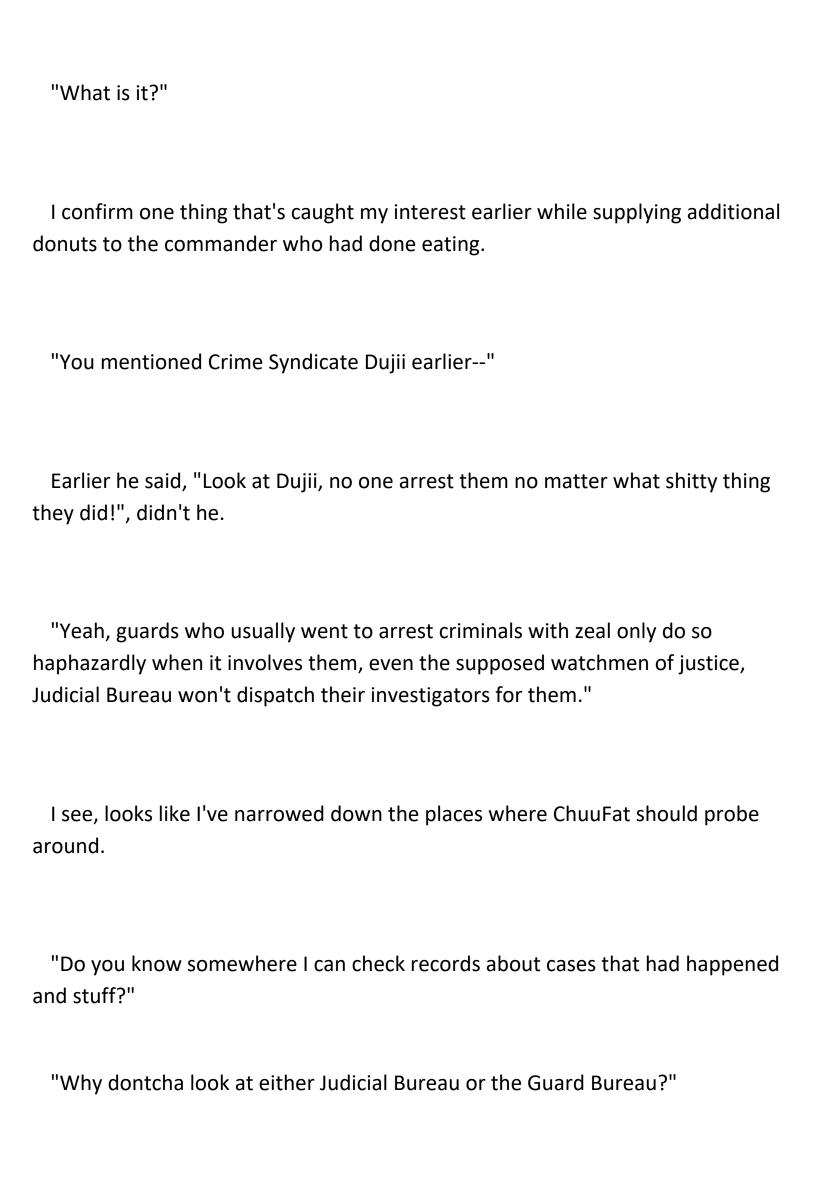






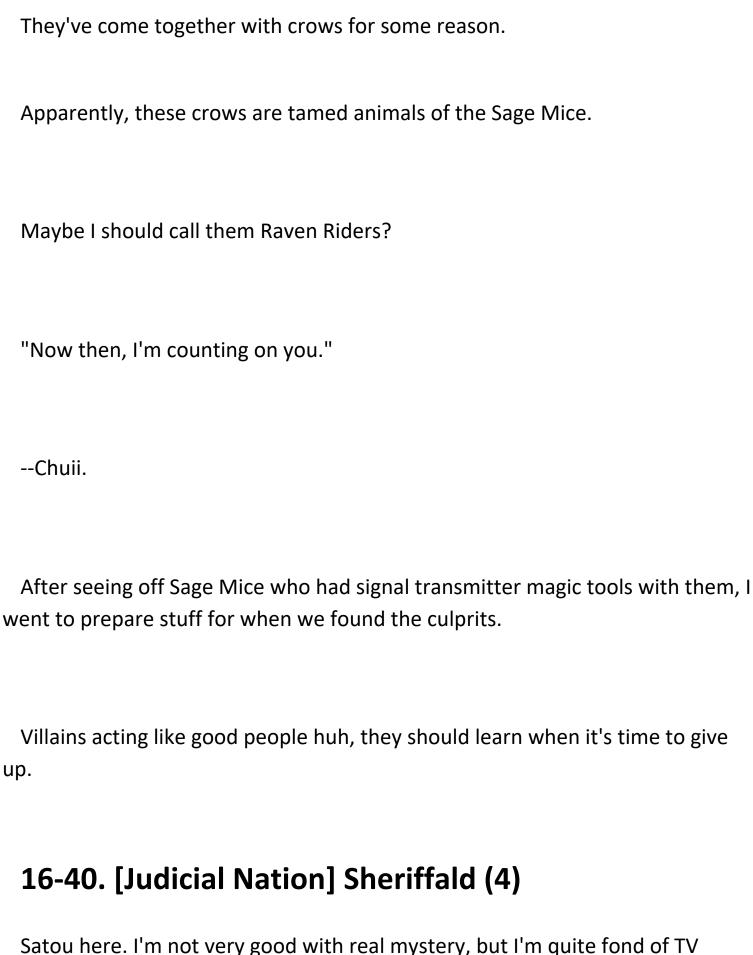


They refused both soldiers that could die in a battlefield, and guards too?
Is it because they don't want a groom who can't continue the bakery or something?
"I see, I'm sorry to hear that. Here, eat these and try to cheer up."
Liquor is apparently banned in this city, so I gave him some donuts taken from my bag.
"This is good Really good"
Please don't eat while crying.
In addition, I used mind magic [Calm Field], [< <inconstancy regret="">>], and [Mind Recovery] to sweep away his regret.</inconstancy>
Oh right.
"Can I ask you one thing?"

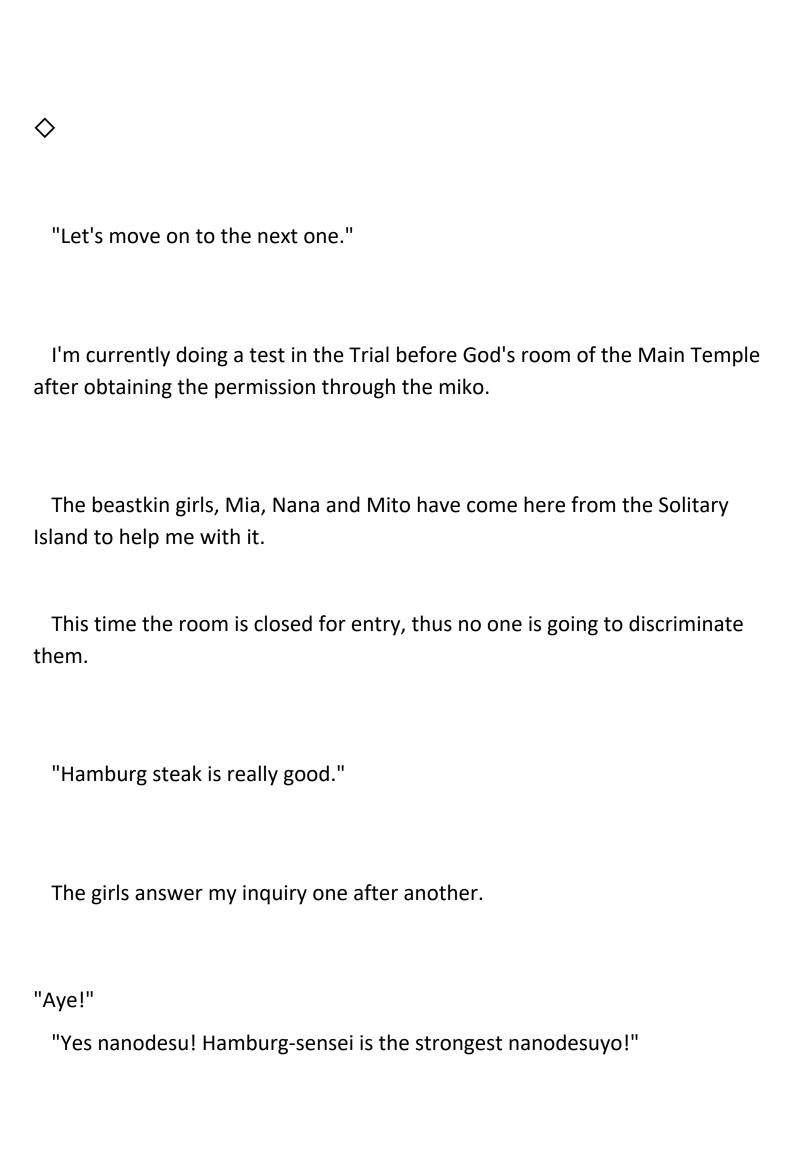


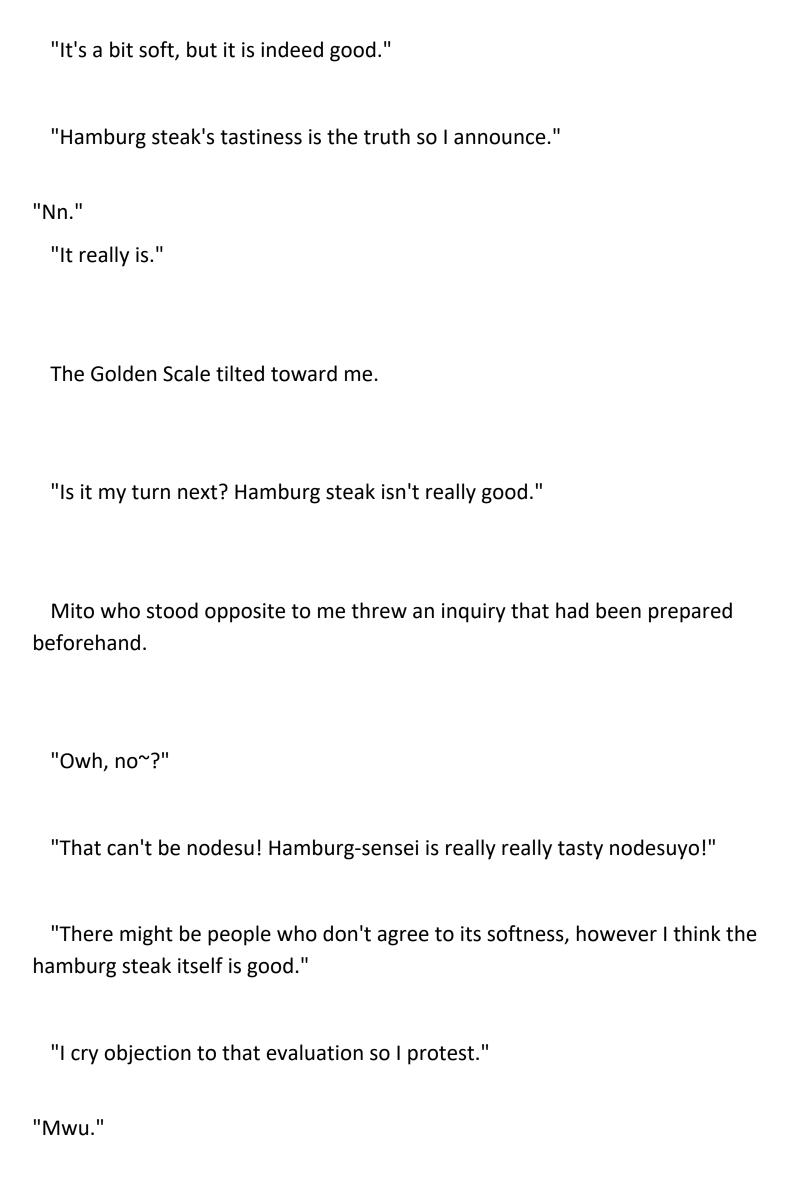
Looks like he's not detailed in this too. Servicemen and guards have different jurisdictions after all. Well, I'll likely find out what kind of crimes the Crime Syndicate Dujii has done if I check on Judicial Bureau and Guard Bureau records, then by investigating people who profited off of those crimes, seizing evidences should be possible. Map Search is way too convenient I even forgot to check on such basic places. I parted ways with the commander who looked like he had been liberated off of an evil spirit after binge eating donuts, and I decided to look for places where they keep the records of Judicial Bureau and Guard Bureau with space magic. "Think it's about time they're ready?"

Looking at the Map, they seem to have done preparing, so I moved to a back alley and Unit Arranged ChuuFat and the other Mice all at once.

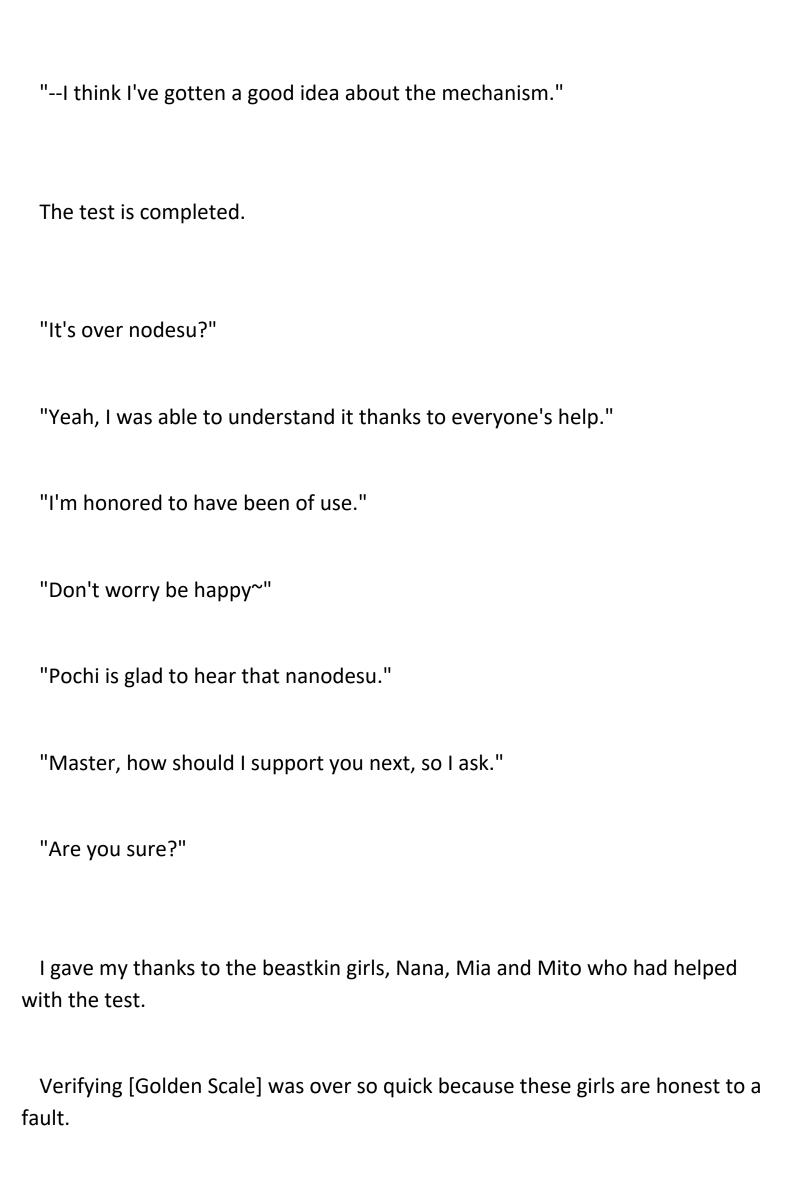


Satou here. I'm not very good with real mystery, but I'm quite fond of TV dramas about detectives. That they're easy on amateur viewers by doing stuff like suddenly divulging who the culprit is, or making an individual obviously suspicious are the nice things about them.









I sent them back to the island after thanking them for their help. Of course I plan to treat them to a full course hamburg steak for their assistance this time. I thank the miko for allowing me to borrow the room and go back to the airship moored at the outskirts of the city. Not for taking off, it's cause the ship has a complete set of counterespionage facility inside. "Now then--" Since it seems there's still some time until ChuuFat and the other mice, whom I have teleported below the building, to get into their positions, I'll go gather some intel with space magic. "Usually, I'd go with the king first--"

Since this country's system closely resembles that of democratic ancient Greece's system, there's no king here.

There should be someone that rules over the City Core, but I couldn't find anyone who fit the bill with Map Search.

Perhaps the governance of City Core itself is split up.

That's interesting, maybe I should test it out with one of the City Cores when I have time later.

"Let's take a look at the Chief of Central Judicial Bureau for now."

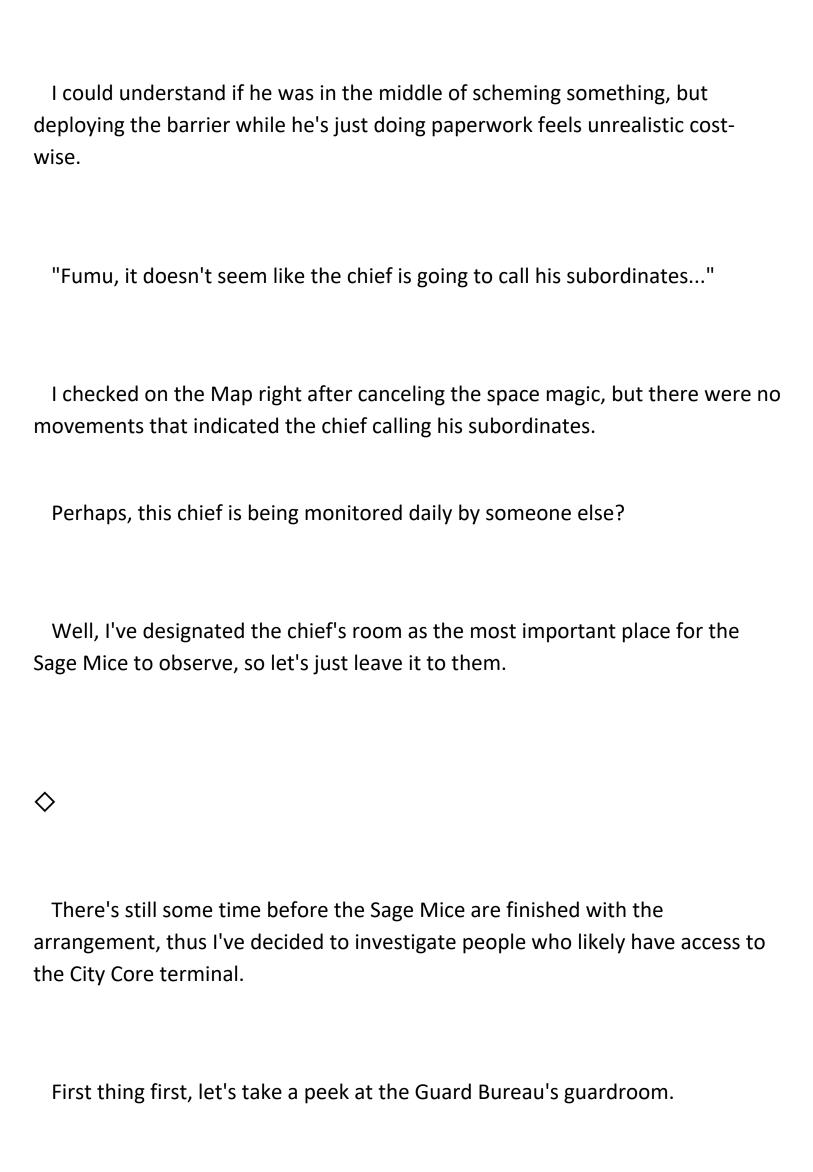
I stopped myself right when I was going to invoke space magic at the location data I got from Map Search.

In countries with bad public orders and rampant crimes like this, there's a chance that they have sophisticated traceback magic devices installed.

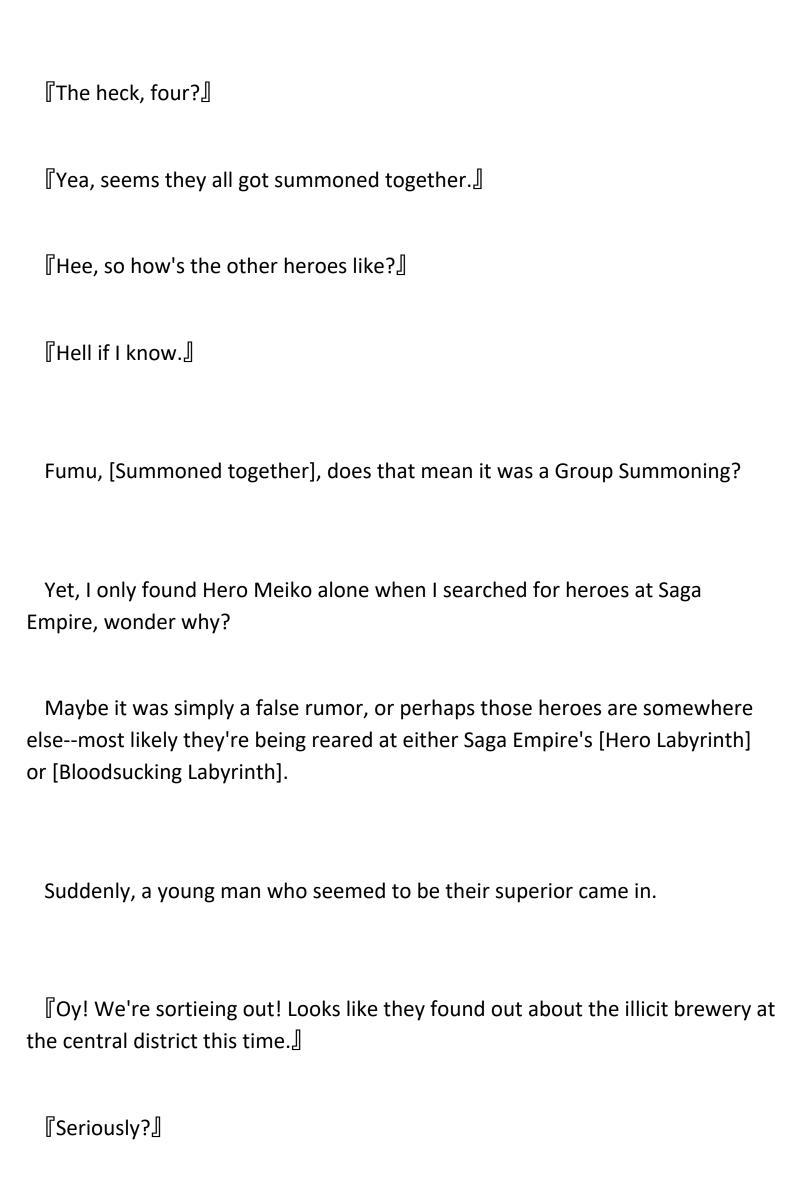
Moreover, in this Judicial Nation Sheriffald, the positions of high ranking officials at Judicial Bureau are like those of nobles in other countries, so they might have access to the City Core terminal.

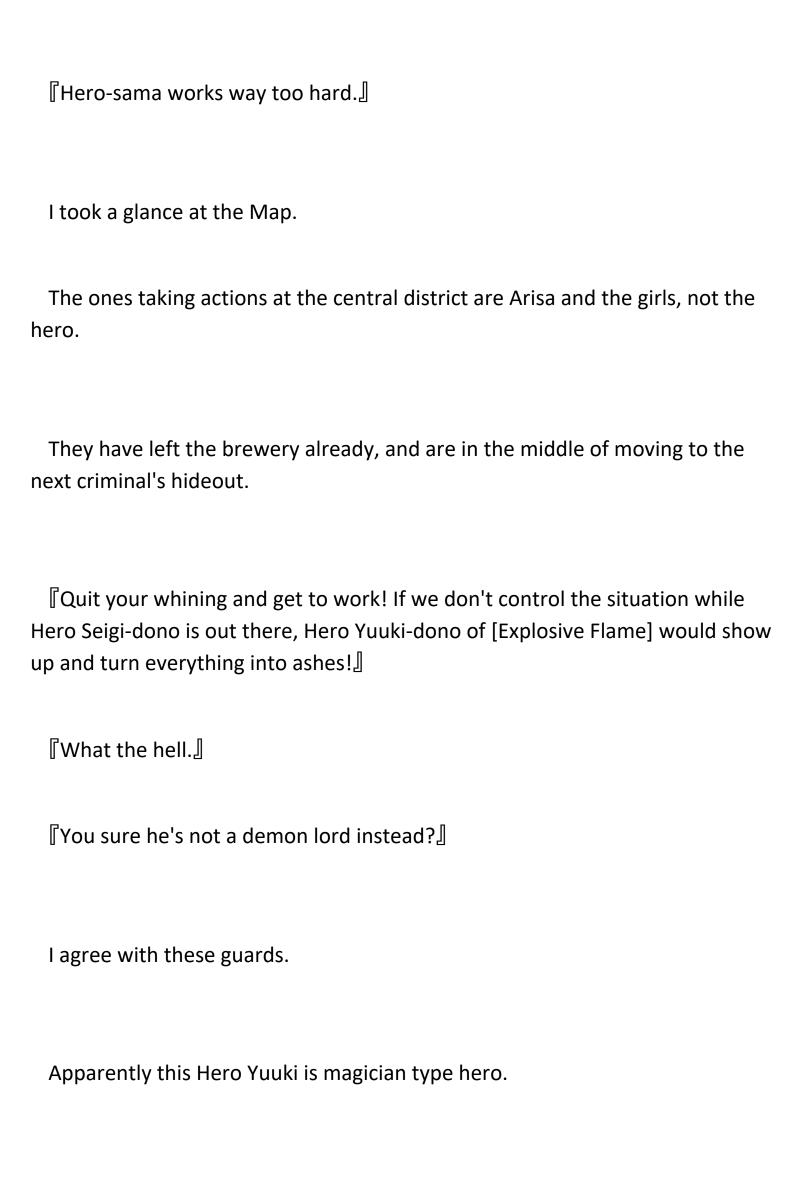
And if they do, that means they're capable of deploying anti-detection

barriers.
Thus, I decided to use the anti-traceback space magic spell before invoking [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhearis].
The chief of the Central Judicial Bureua was a stout fat bald middle-aged man
[Who's there!]
Oops, I got found out way quicker than expected.
There's a possibility of him simply bluffing, but 9 out of 10, it's probably for real.
Well, since I the traceback was repelled by the anti-detection space magic I prepared beforehand, he only found out that someone was trying to peek, not that I was the one doing it, surely.
"But, that's weird"
Unless he's in danger of getting monitored daily, there's no need to deploy anti-detection barriers.



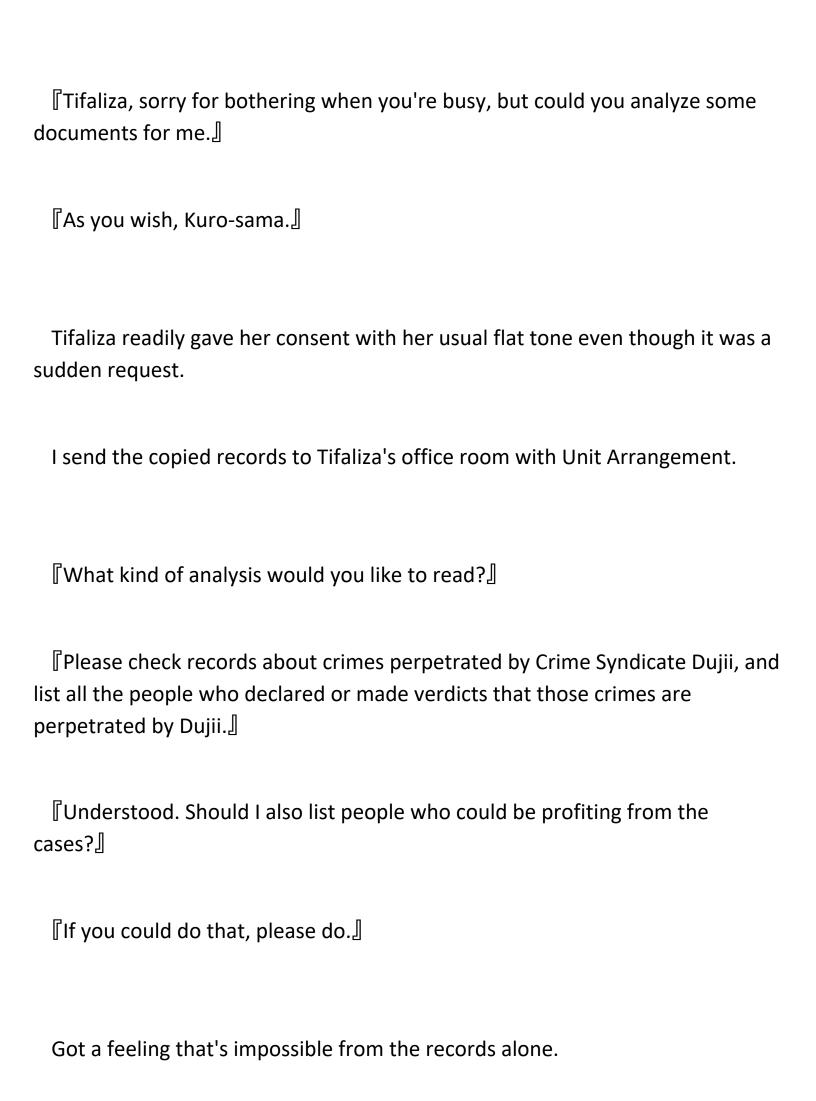
Bah, I'm beat. [You there, less talking more moving.] I could see one of the guards writing something resembling records while grumbling. Still, records huh--might be worth stealthily duplicating them and pinpoint all the corrupt people. [Hero-sama's working his ass off out there.] [No shit, ya think all Hero-sama are like that?] [All Hero-sama? Ya talk like there's more than one hero-sama.] [Previous hero was yeah, but rumor says there's four rite' now.] Oh, quite an interesting topic. It isn't related to the Trial, but let's lend an ear to this.

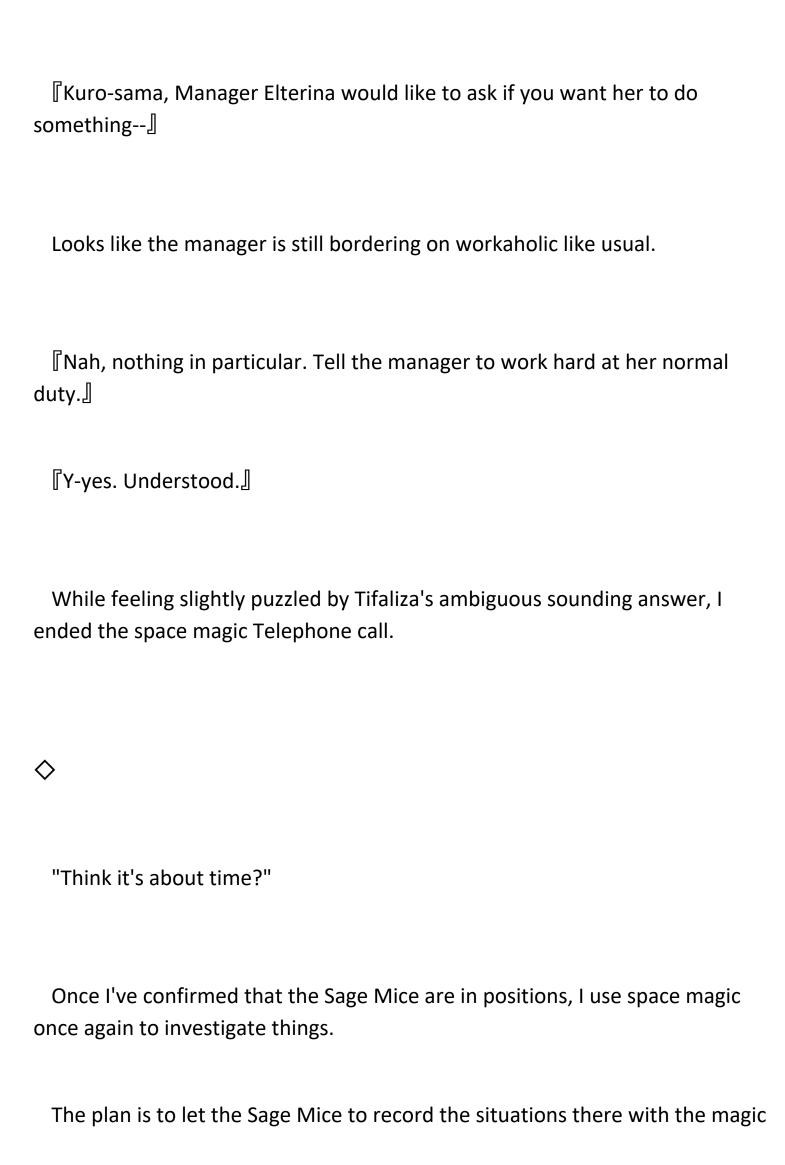




He's probably the hero that came to Garleon Union after we left. I've been ignoring these heroes since I'm not really interested, but once this trial is over, perhaps I'd better gather information from Echigoya Firm and Shiga Kingdom's Intelligence Department? "Now then--" When no one was present inside the room, I took it upon myself to borrow the records with [<<Aport an Object>>], and copied the documents with [Recording], [Magic Hand], and [Parallel Thought]. I could have used Transcript skill too if I wanted, but it's faster this way. After I'm done copying, I return the original records to its place. I duplicate the copied data into blank papers using my Storage function. It's an original function of Exchange Column's Memo Note to copy text.

Afterward, I call Tifaliza at Echigoya Firm using space magic [Telephone].





tools they carry after we shook things up.

After deploying space magic to prevent traceback, I invoke space magic [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhearis].

Before challenging the chief again, I chose between the three vice chiefs.

I saw on the Map that someone had just rushed into the Vice-chief's room, so I peeked on them.

[Vice-chief Bupa, Zou-dono's brewery has been raided.]

[What!]

What a timely topic.

This Vice-chief doesn't have anti-detection barrier deployed, so he doesn't notice me looking.

I listen carefully to their conversations through the space magic.

The watching sage mice are carrying video recording magic tools with them, but just in case, I also activate video and sound recording magic to preserve the info I'm witnessing now.

That blasted hero! What the hell is the official we stick on him doing! Didn't I give him order to lead the hero to the underground bars at the downtown! I see, the reason why the hero had been focusing solely at the downtown was these guys' handiwork. [N-no, that's, it's not the hero this time.] [What? Another straitlaced inspector? Or is it the hardheaded fools from Guard Bureau? Since it's from the suspect himself, I memo-ed people who sounded like they could be taken off the list. It's neither of them [Then who? Just speak!] It's the subordinates of Shiga Kingdom's Earl Pendragon... In the picture, the handsome middle-aged judicial bureau Vice-chief stamped

his feet before he beat the desk hard.

[Why are those bunch acting like our country's guards! Stop their foolish actions at once!]

[H-however--]

[What are you hesitating for? What is there to fear from a noble, no matter how high his rank, of a foreign country we have no real diplomatic relation with. Dispatch the national soldiers and knights if the guards can't handle them!]

--Oh?

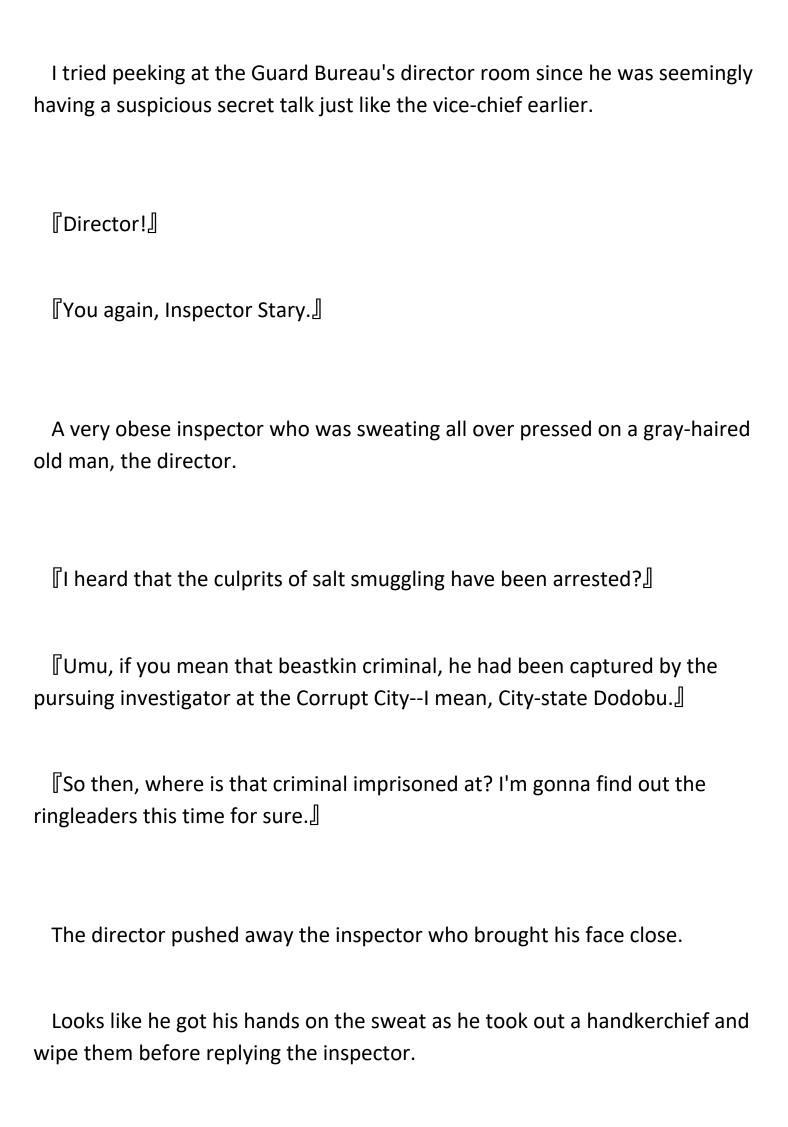
Looks like the fact that I'm [Demon Lord Slayer] hasn't reached him, maybe because there's practically no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

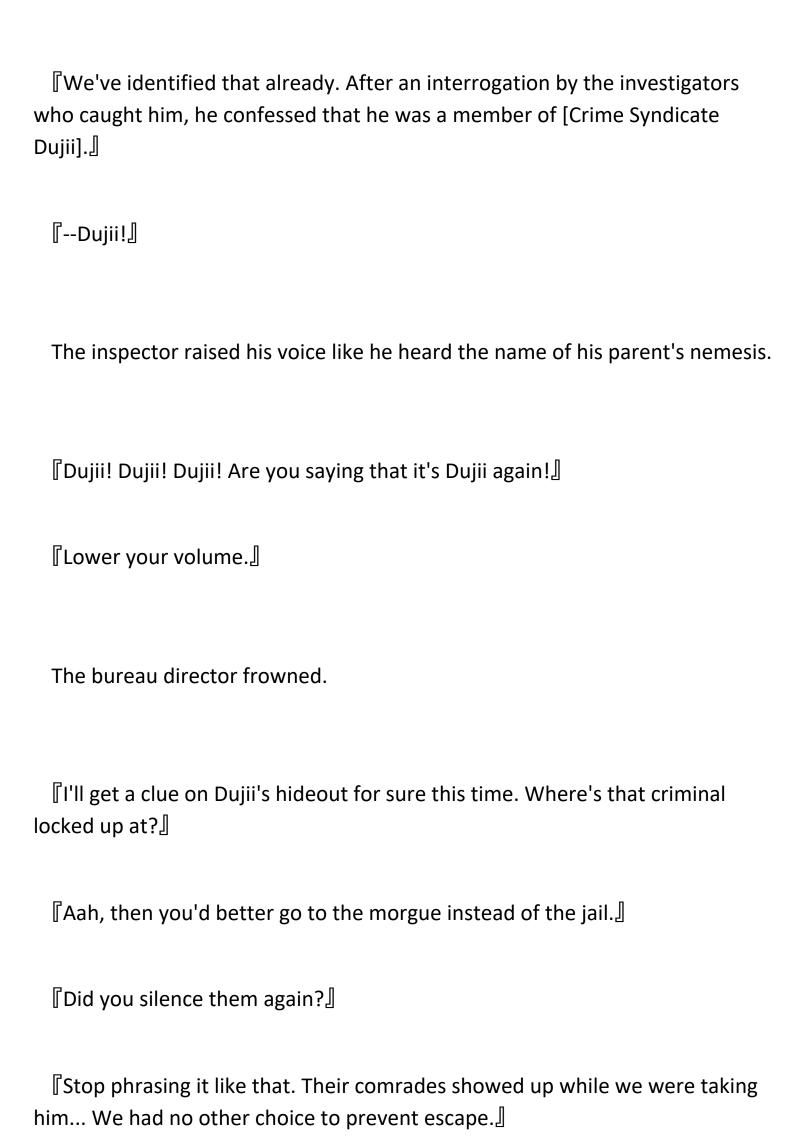
Well, since the judges and guards of this country should be listening when Hero Seigi called me [Demon Lord Slayer], I'm sure the news will spread before long.

That's not what I mean! Earl Pendragon has come here to take on that Trial at God Urion Main Temple.

Trial? What the heck is that?

Guess God's Trials aren't really well known?
[Are you not familiar with it? The Trial of God Urion. Expose evils, make justice be known to the world, that trial.]
[An earl from a foreign country took that?]
The Vice-chief gnarled, "So what?", at the subordinate.
The populace already knows about the trial. Should we stand in his way, wouldn't that be the same as declaring that there's something going on behind the scene!
The vice-chief groaned to hear the subordinate.
This vice-chief didn't seem to be aware of it, but apparently, the God's Trial is a common knowledge amongst the populace from temple worships and folklores.
For now, these two seem to be in cahoot.
I open the Map and look for the next candidate.





The inspector is right, he's silenced them no matter how you look at it.

Moreover, there's a possibility that the beastkin was caught on a false charge judging from the flow of this conversation.

[Dead men tell no tales, huh...]

[You, stop needlessly suspecting your coworkers. I don't care if you're the Chief's favorite, keep that up and I'd have to hand out punishment soon, you hear me?]

The bureau director glanced at the door like he was driving out the inspector.

[I will definitely get a lead on Dujii! Definitely!]

The director sighed while ignoring the inspector who shouted out loud outside the room.

Good grief, this is why these self-alleged justice bunch are bothersome. If you think you can get a lead on a crime syndicate that never existed, go on and do your worst.

I check on one target after another after recording the director's confession.

I managed to investigate around 30 people before Arisa and the girls came back, but even though there were two among those who had put up antidetection barrier, none had prepared a way to traceback like with the Central Judicial Bureau's chief.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

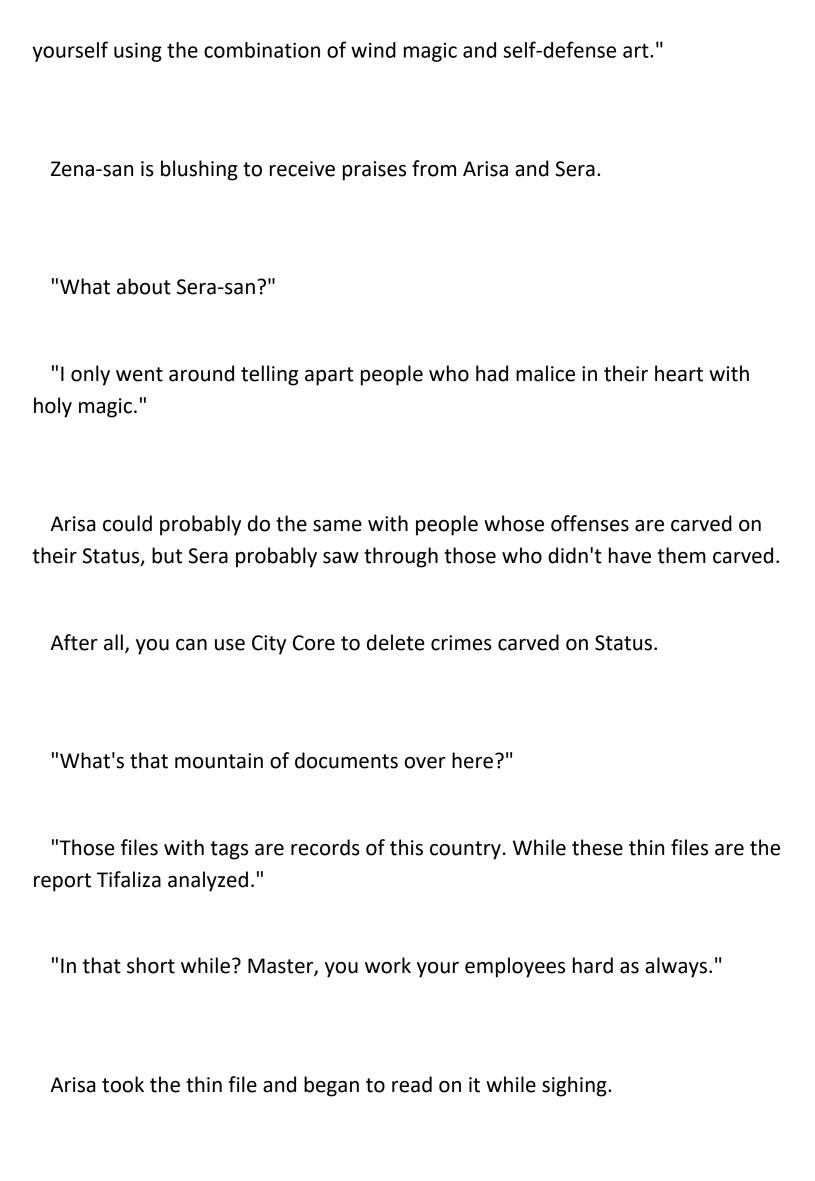
"We're back."

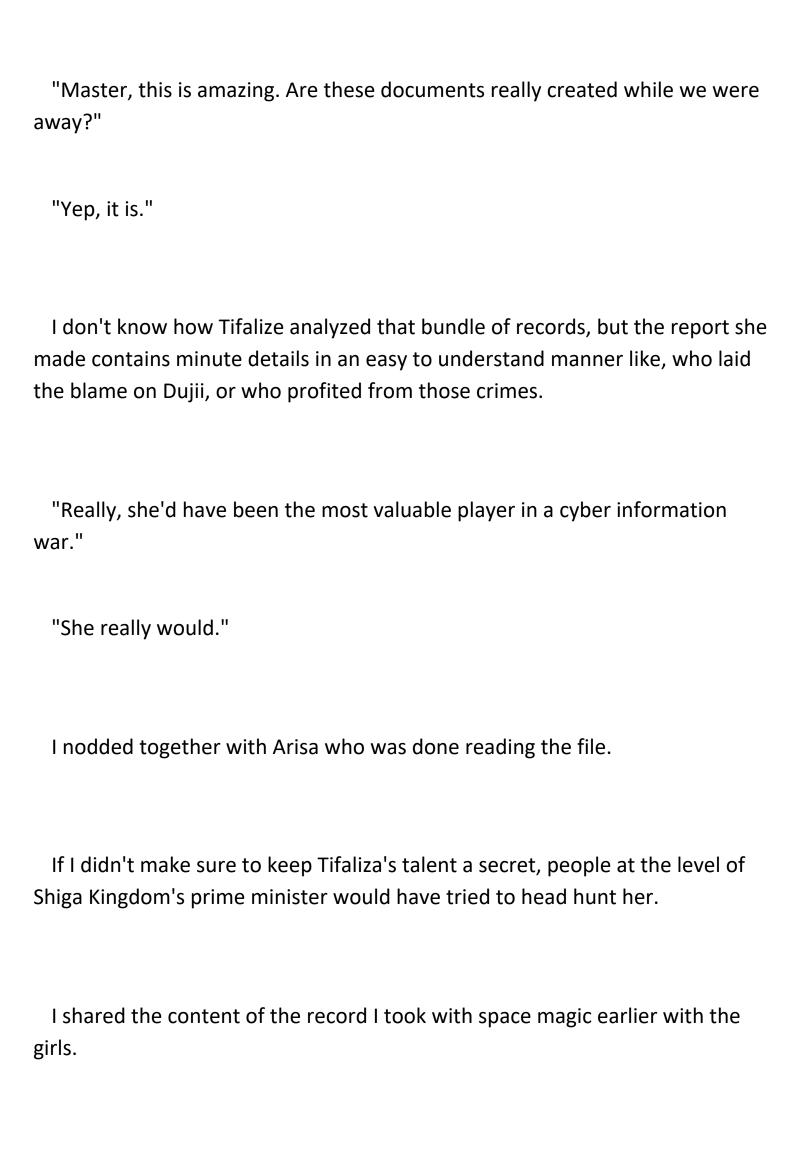
The diversion group, Arisa and the girls returned to the base after arresting criminals.

"Zena-tan and Sera were completely dominating the battlefield today, I'll have you know."

"Not at all! I-I just took us to the places where the miasma were the thickest with Wind Magic."

"No need to be so modest, Zena. Didn't you practically arrest all the bad men





Even content that were meaningless by itself carry a different meaning after reading Tifaliza's summarized report.
This much is enough to expose them, but still impossible to apply to the whole ruling class of this country.
There's a fair amount of honest guards like the inspector earlier, however, most of the upper echelon ones are taking the wait-and-see approach, none seem capable of unmasking the ringleaders.
It's hard to solely rely on the Main Temple's authority to expose the corruption.
It could end up turning into Main Temple VS Central Judicial Bureau if I'm not careful.
Chuii.
The Sage Mouse ChuuFat that had come back took out many recording magic tools from his small < <magic mouse="" pouch="">> and handed them over to me.</magic>

"Good work, ChuuFat. Make sure to change shift with other mice and get some meals before continuing your surveillance okay."
I put Souffle Cakes and Cheese Cakes into ChuuFat's Mouse Pouch and teleported him back to the Judicial Nation's underground.
We check on the recording one by one.
[Hero and an Earl who took on the [Trial of God Urion] huh I loathe to borrow the powers of foreigners, but this country has no capability to save itself from itself anymore.]
"Master, isn't this person"
I quietly nodded to Arisa who turned around, and made a gesture to listen quietly.
It shouldn't surprise anyone if they came to the conclusion that I'm the head of Dujii if they were to check on the documents.
No, unfortunately, you were only deemed gray even in Tifaliza's Report.



16-41. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (5)

Satou here. Things that are right to you may not necessarily apply to everyone. Self-righteousness sure can easily run wild, surprisingly enough.



"To reiterate, you claim that the people on this list have created a fictitious crime syndicate known as Dujii to be a cover to conceal their criminal activities?"

The Chief of Judicial Bureau sighed as he looked at the list.

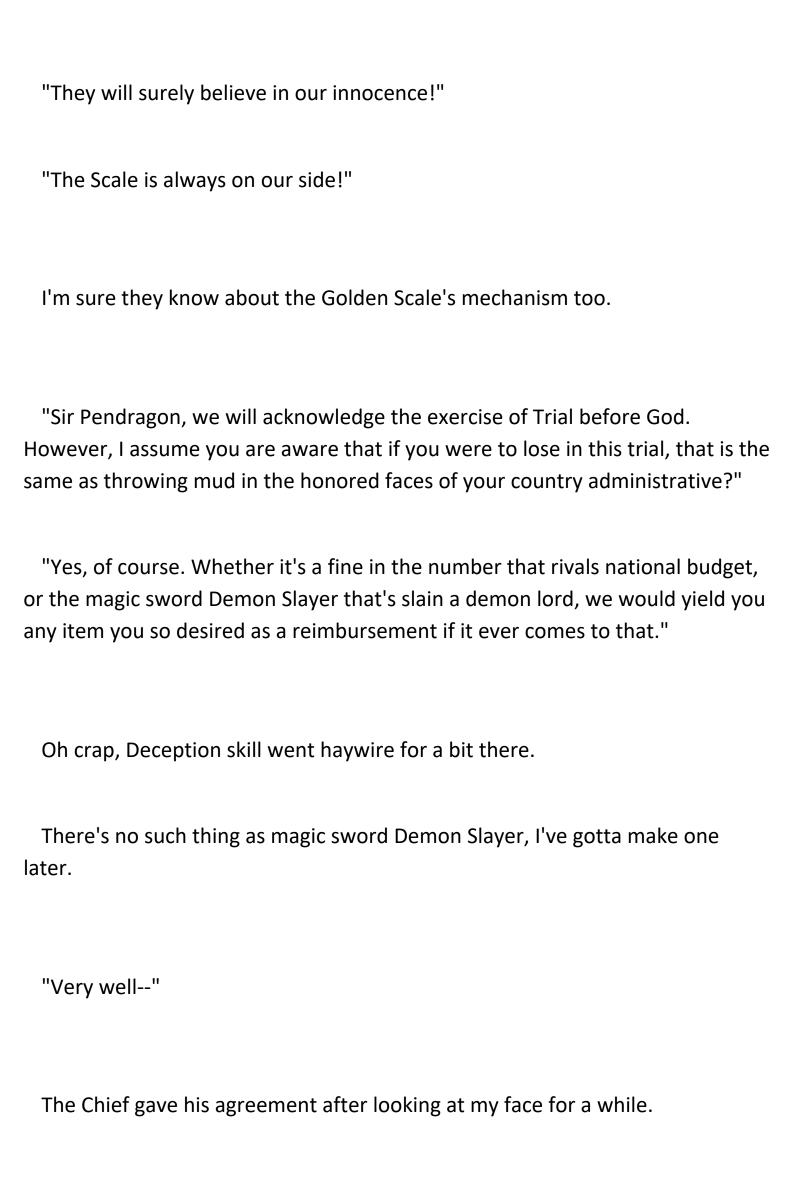
After we were done with preparations, I got to the Central Judicial Bureau through the Main Urion Temple's miko's connection.

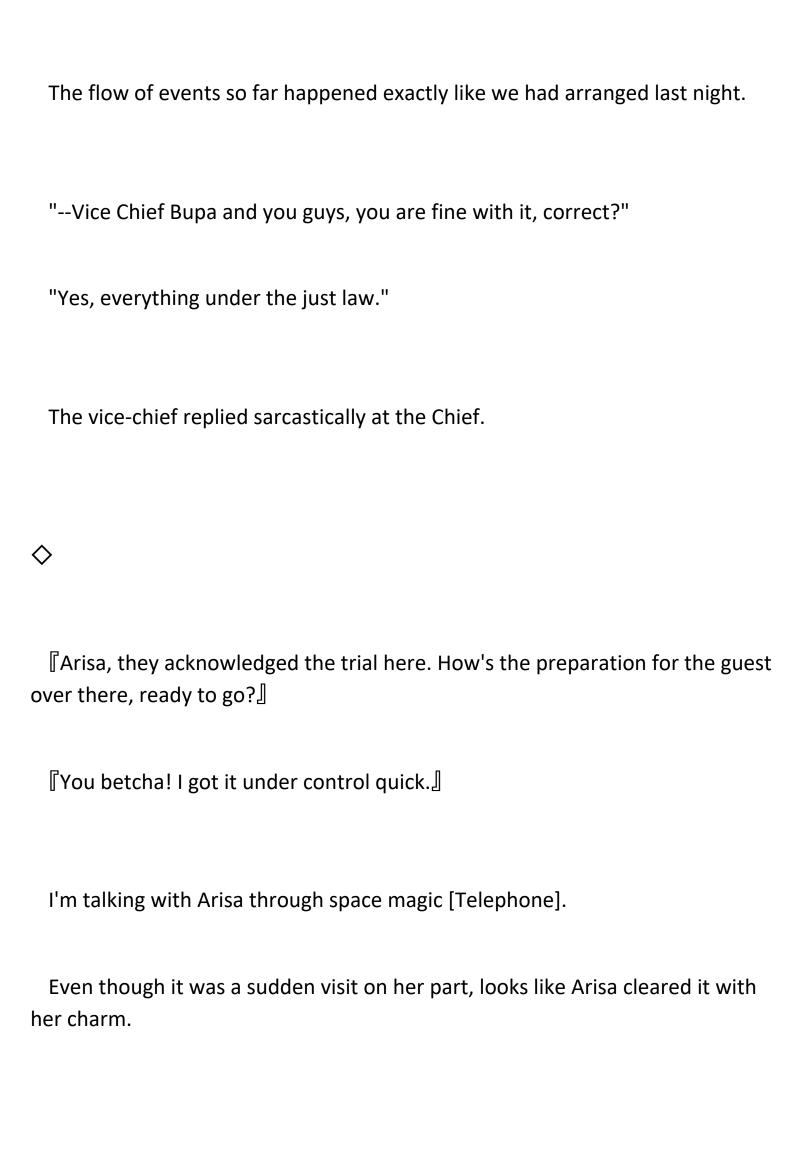
The Chief's name isn't on this list.

"However, I only have evidence for around half of them--"

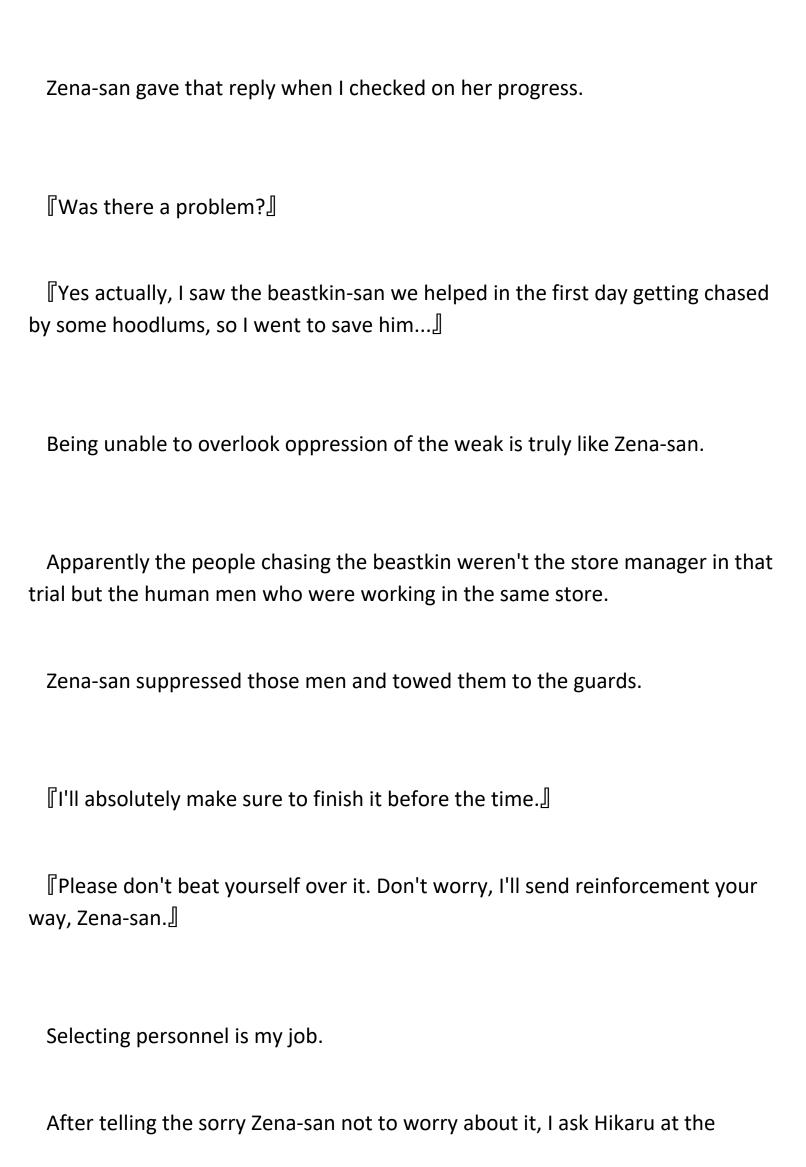
"And those evidence are?"

"That will be for the Trial before God."
After I told the Chief that, the henchmen who had their names on the list all began to verbally abuse me.
Well, I pay them no heed so I've got not clue what they're saying.
"Why not, we should accept it, Chief. It will be a good chance to prove our innocence in front of God and other members of diet."
The man who said that was the one whose name is on top of the list, the handsome vice-chief.
The Chief turned a dubious look at the guy's unexpected remark.
"Our innocence will be guaranteed by the [Golden Scale]."
The lackeys open their mouth all at once after the confident remark of the vice-chief.
"T-that's right! Those participating in the Trial before God are our cohorts, ladies and gentlemen with judicial qualification!"



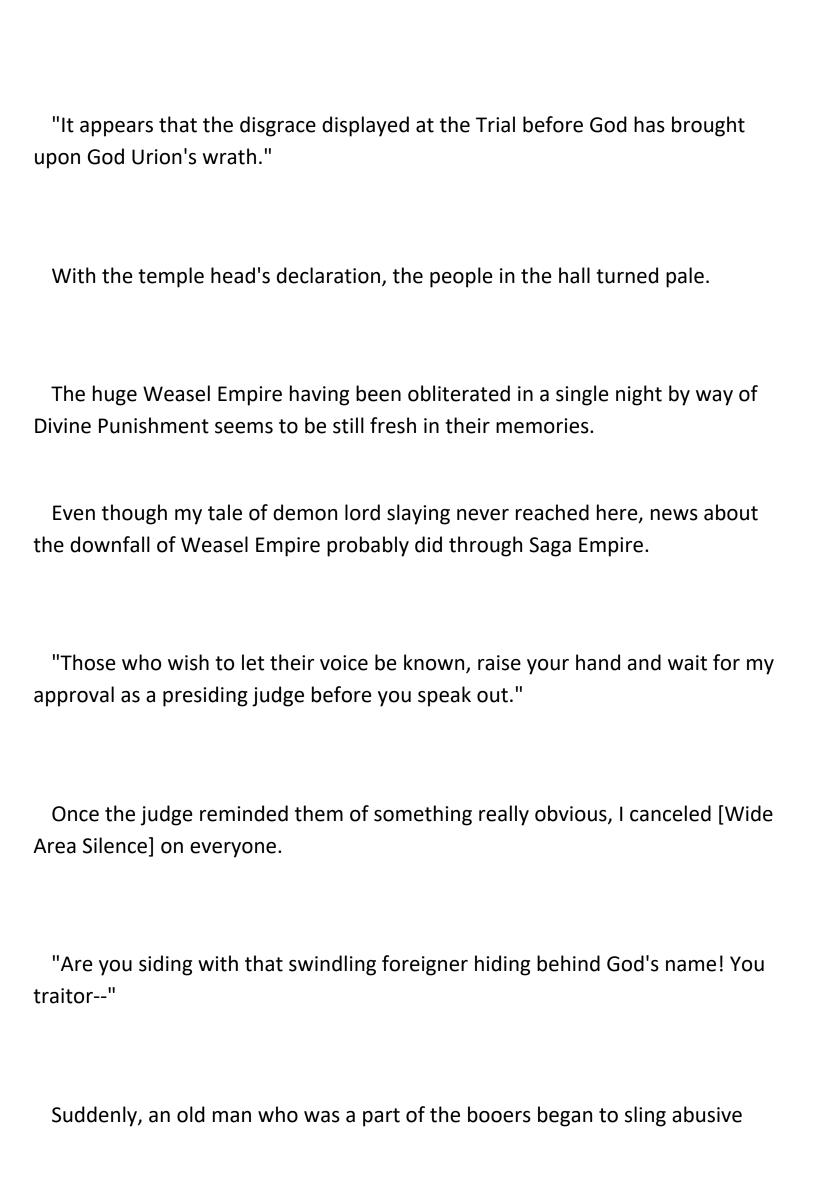


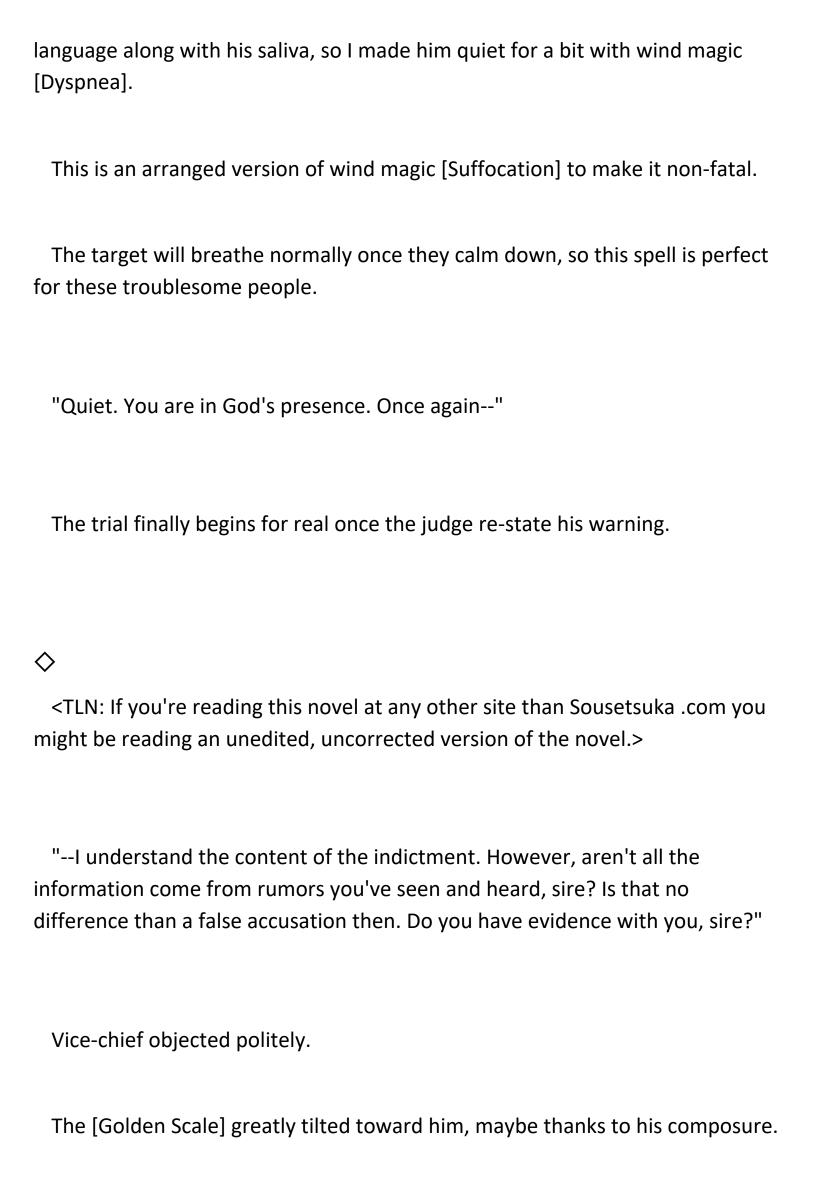
Coming too fast would throw a wrench in this plan, make sure to match the timing okay. [OK, wanna match our clock so there won't be any [margin of error]?] Arisa was seemingly referencing something but since I couldn't recall what it was from, I gave her some random "Yeah let's", and changed the call to the next person. Satou-san, her highness Sistina's golems are helping with the installation over here, we should be able to make it in time. [Thank you, Sera-san.] Looks like they're done with installing a device that telecasts video at the plaza. It will be showing masterpiece paintings and world's pretty scenery until the appointed time. There should be quite a crowd gathered by the time the trial starts. Forgive me, Satou-san. I'm still not done with the construction.

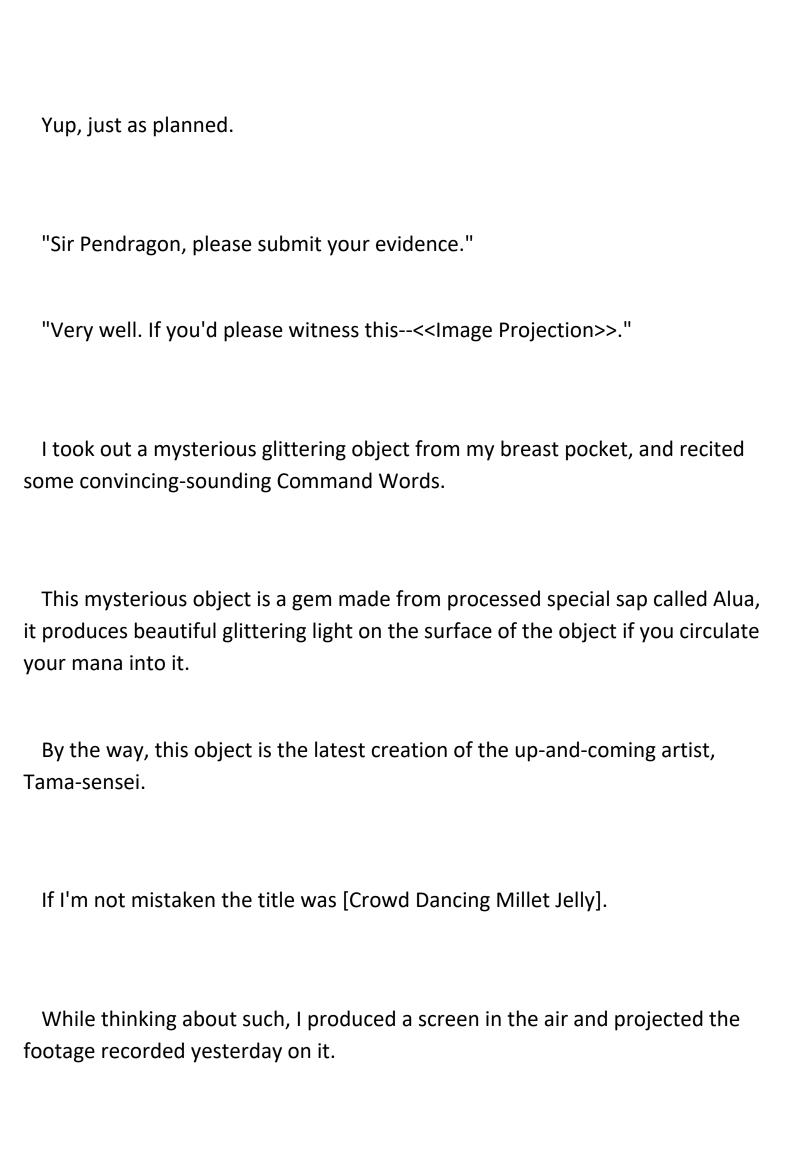


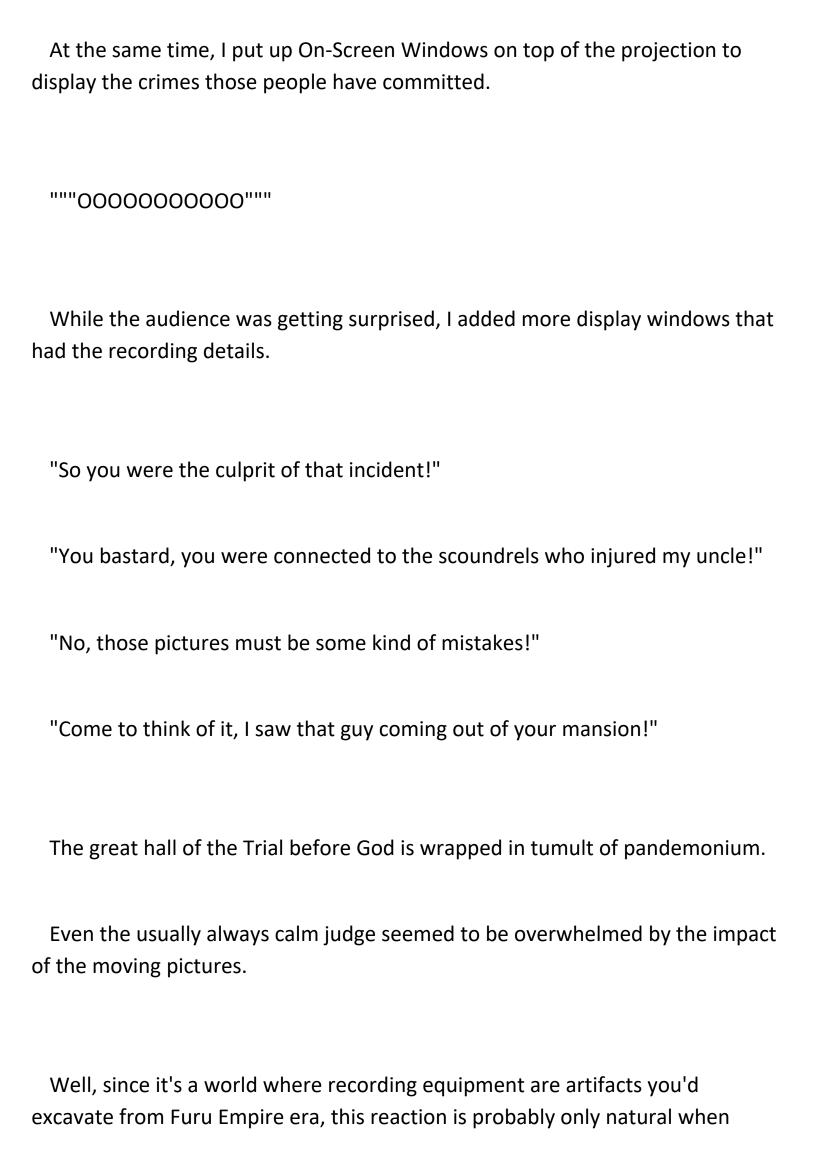
Solitary Island Palace for help.
『You sure you want to let Shiga Kingdom be wide open?』
[No worries. There hasn't been any suspicious activity there for a while, and we have guard golems and Echigoya members around too.]
After equipping Hikaru with anti-backdoor items like Arisa and Sera, I Unit Arranged her to the airship at the outskirts and tasked her to help Zena-san.
Chuii?
When I saw ChuuFat who peeked out of my breast pocket, I remembered that the Sage Mice who make up the information network at Shiga Kingdom had come here.
Well, it's not like we're living in some game or manga, no way the end would immediately begin the moment a flag was raised.
\diamond

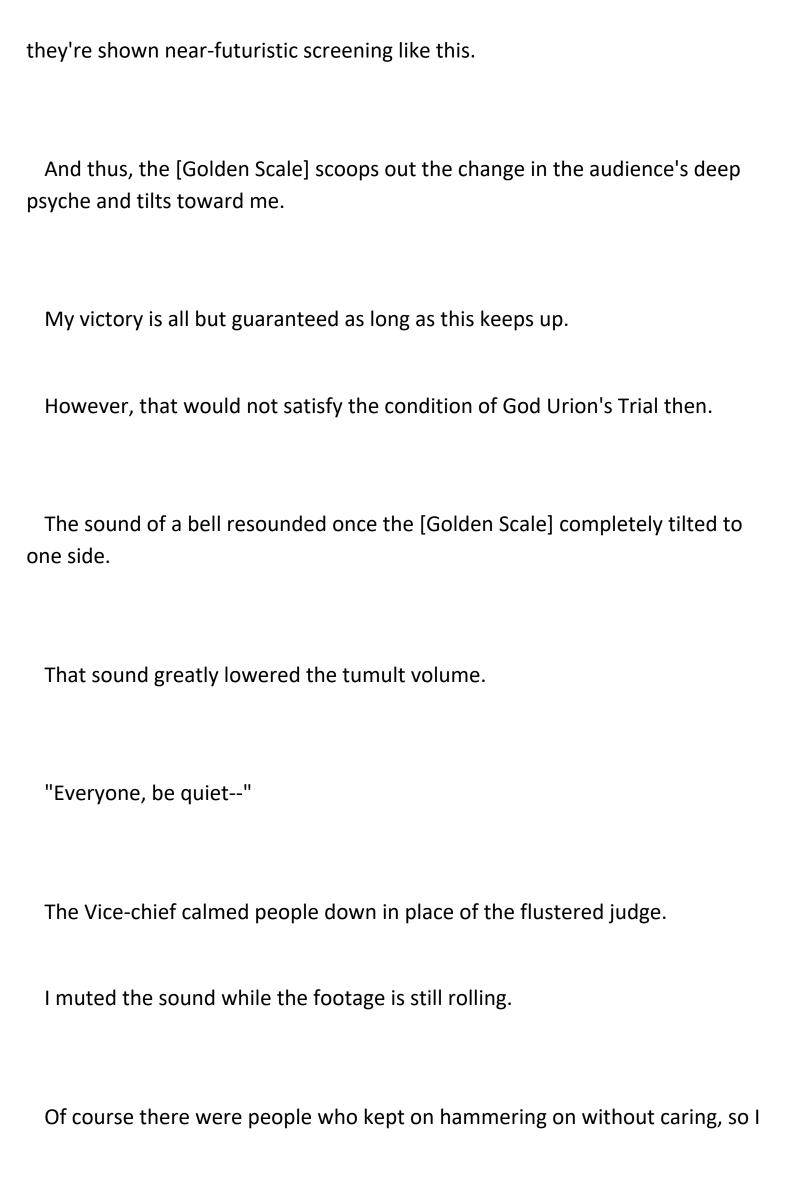
"Under these suspicion, they are accused to be the ones behind Crime Syndicate Dujii."
Boos and jeers erupted from people who also weren't in the list after the indictment was read aloud at the Trial before God.
The presiding judge was shouting, "Keep silent!" while waving around a handbell-like thing, but most couldn't shut their mouths.
"Please keep it down."
I silenced the bad mannered people with wind magic [Wide Area Silence].
As you'd expect from an anti-magician group spell, the effect is outstanding.
I could have used [Compulsion (Geass)] skill if I wanted to, but that would faint people who tried to disobey it, so I refrained.
I cancel the spell on people who are unrelated like the judge, the temple head and miko.
When I winked at the temple head, he noticed that his voice would come out, and then he proceeded to speak.



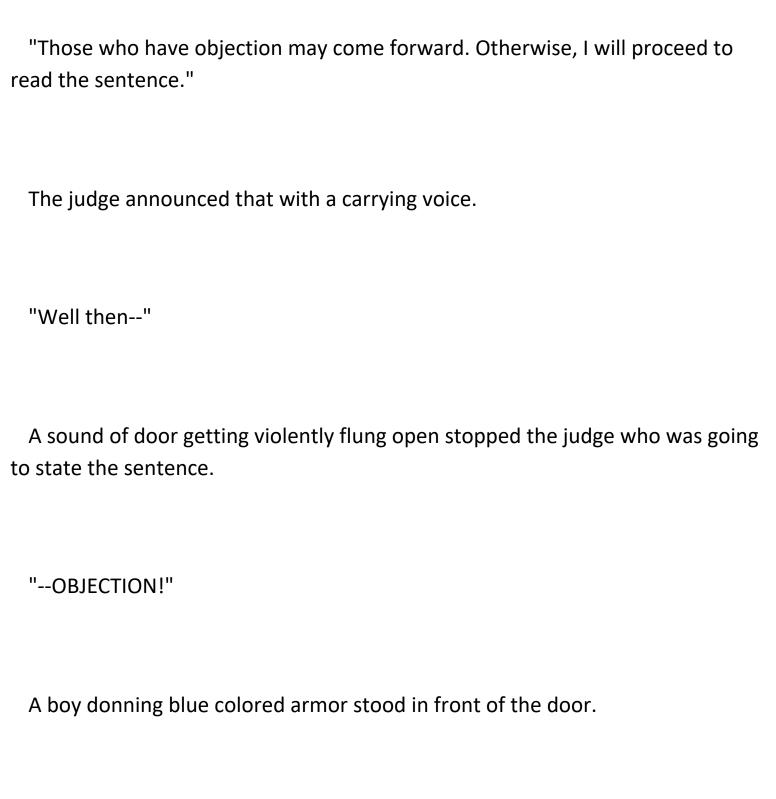








shut them up with [Dyspnea] chantlessly.
The vice-chief who had a refreshing martyr-like expression on his face continued on while pointing at the completely tilted scale.
"It appears that I cannot shirk away any longer from this. With our dignity as the watchdogs of law, let us confess to all our crimes and serve our sentence."
The vice-chief called for the people around him.
The majority of those people were looking down on the ground in despair, but some were turning their eyes all over the places, still stubbornly trying to look for a way out.
The Chief is glaring at that Vice-Chief with a puzzled expression.
He must have felt something odd with the Vice-Chief who acted too gallantly.
The Chief glanced at me.
He might have sensed something wrong considering it went way too smooth.



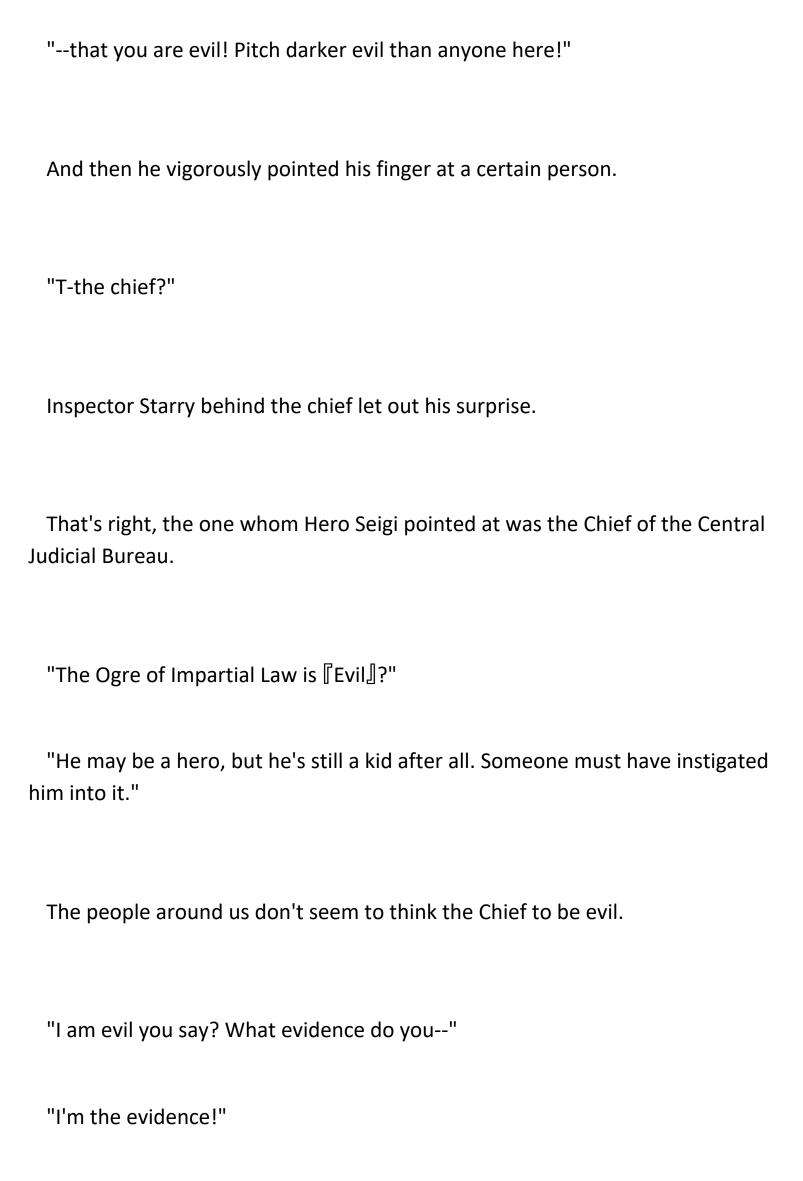
16-42. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (6)

Satou here. It's easy to predict moves of people who are true to their desires and objectives, regardless if they're just or evil. While it's not that simple to read the action patterns of altruistic people.





"Good work, Arisa. Your timing was perfect."
"Fer' sure. All that staling tactics were really tiresome, but it was all worth it after hearing Master's praise."
I had asked Arisa to bring Hero Seigi here at this timing.
Arisa is clinging on my arm while saying something like, "Hey Master, I don't mind perverted reward, you know?", but guess I should just ignore her like usual.
"Hero Seigi-dono, what do you have to object?"
The judge inquired Hero Seigi.
"I know"
Hero Seigi covers his face with his hand and looks around at the surrounding people from between his fingers.
Blue light dwells in his eyes.



Hero declared so while being clad in blue light.

"The <code>[Justice Mind's Eye (There is only one Truth)]</code> and <code>[Evil Search (Where's the Bad People at)]</code> bestowed to me by Parion-sama informed me! That you are evil! In the name of Parion-sama, I declare here! You are evil!"

I think the chief was asking for evidence, but Hero Seigi made a declaration under god's name as if that didn't matter.

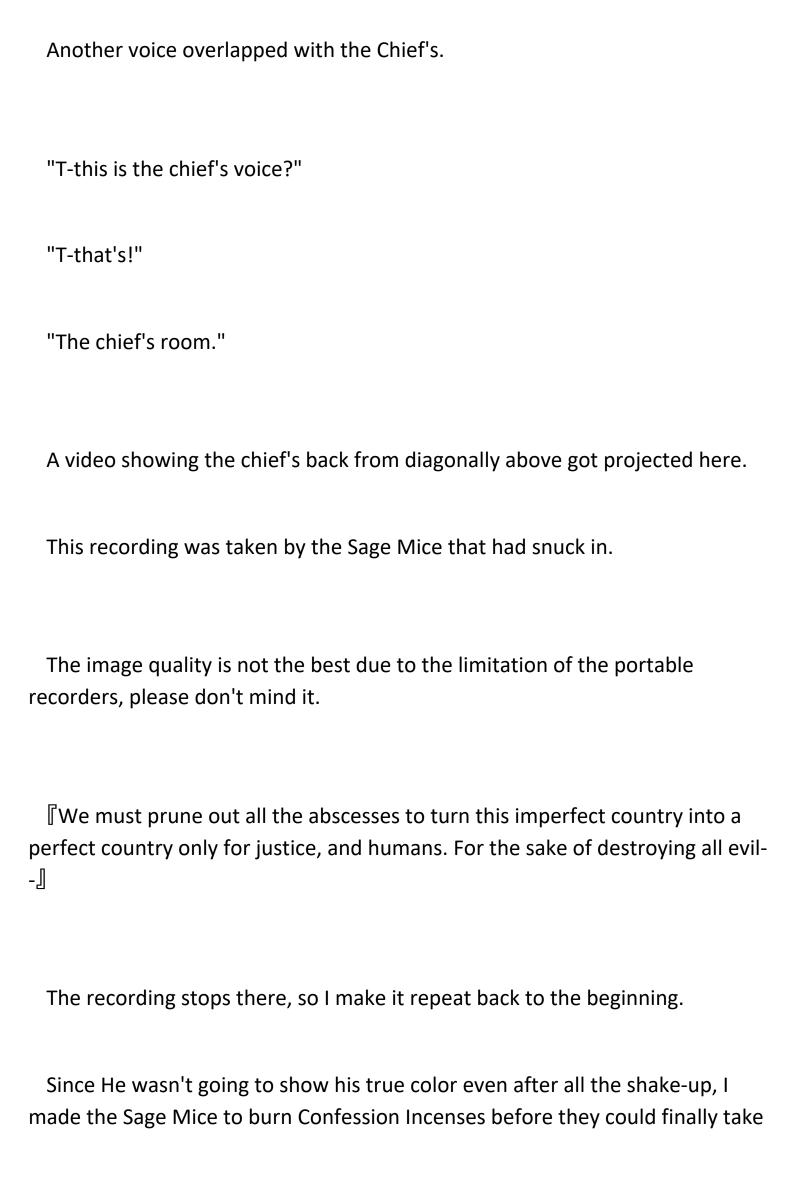
In a world where gods exist for real, the words of heroes beckoned by gods themselves carry much weight.

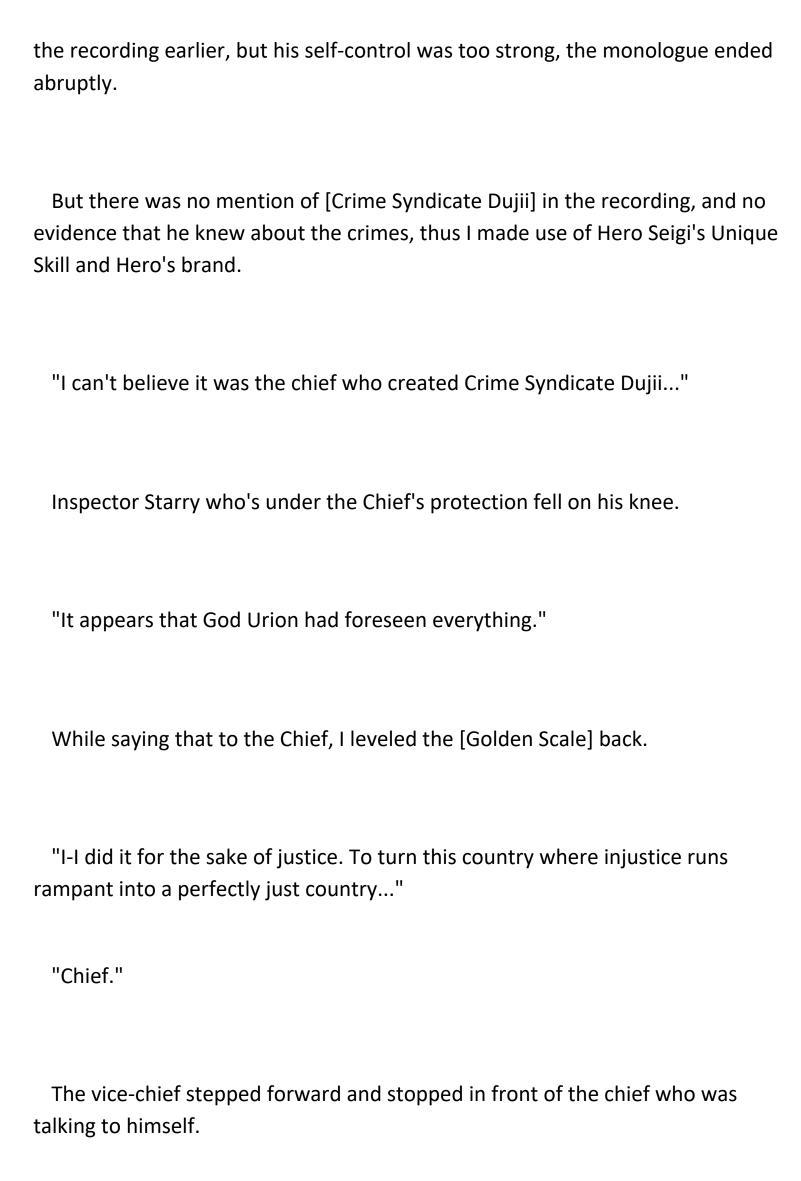
At the very least, the countless Truth Discerners here should be able to testify that he hasn't told a lie.

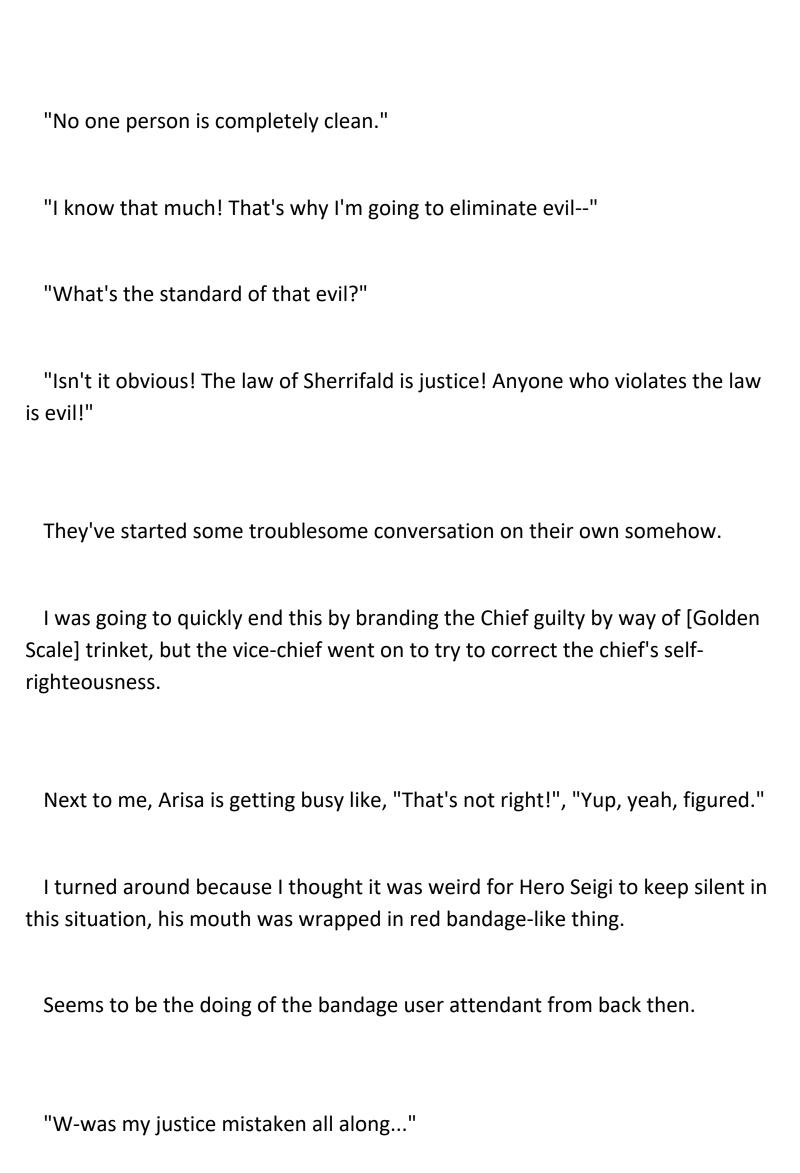
Still, nevertheless, some people just don't know when to give up.

"Without any evidence--"

[I went and made a fictitious organization and it was for nothing.]







"Haste makes waste and only sows discords. Tomorrow rather than today, the day after tomorrow rather than tomorrow, we have no choice but to correct it little by little."

"That's why, you were--"

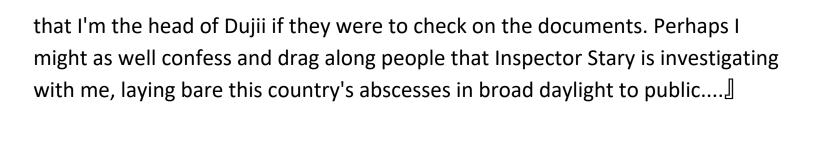
The Chief and the Vice-chief are now looking at each others' eyes.

I don't really care what happened afterward so long as I satisfied God Urion's order, but this would likely lead into a country without leadership if it kept up, so I decided to project the last recording.

The illegal brewery has been exposed. Yet so many still demand liquor. If this keeps up, there will be more smugglers coming from Corrupt City Dodobu, and that country's cloud of influence will only grow larger. And it's Dodobu that houses many beastkin people who bear grudges on our country. None would be the wiser if they put something among the smuggled liquor... Dyeing your hands in evil to protect your country, what an irony...

The content is not dissimilar to the one with the chief earlier, however no one jeered at this.

[Hero and an Earl who took on the [Trial of God Urion] huh.... I loathe to borrow the powers of foreigners, but this country has no capability to save itself from itself anymore. It shouldn't surprise anyone if they came to the conclusion





"Vice-chief Bupa!"

"You're the true patriot!"

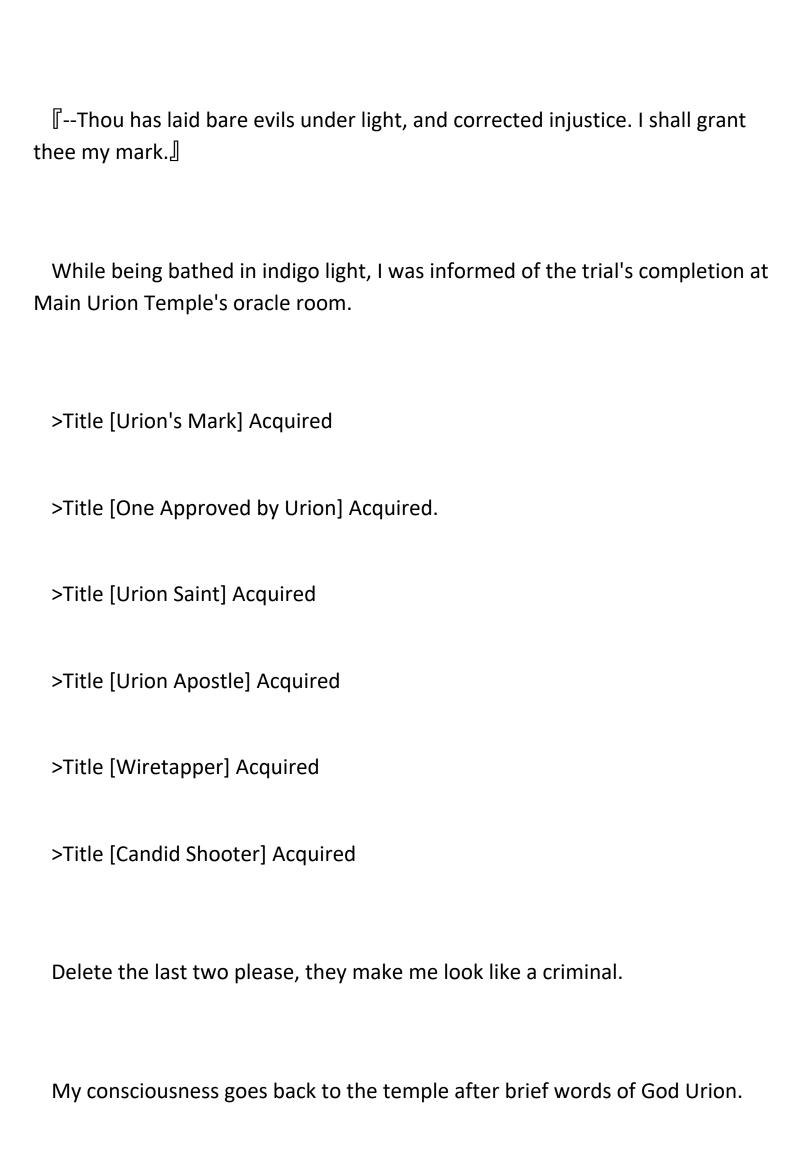
People who look like they've been overcome by emotions are praising vice chief.

About half of them seem to be acting, but since the vice-chief is needed to run this country, I'm keeping my mouth shut.

"But why? That guy's evil too y'know?"

Hero Seigi said that while looking like he couldn't comprehend, but unfortunately, it seemed to fall on deaf ears.





Inside a light	dawning from	heavens, pa	rticles of ligh	it gather into	one item.

--Spectacles?

It's a spectacles with gilded rims adorned with an indigo colored gem called [Cyanite].

Unlike ordinary specs, the hinges are decorated with rustic and odd looking embossed carving.

According to AR readings, this [Golden Spectacles] is enhanced with an effect similar to Hero Seigi's Unique Skill, [Justice Mind's Eye], or [Eye of Conviction].

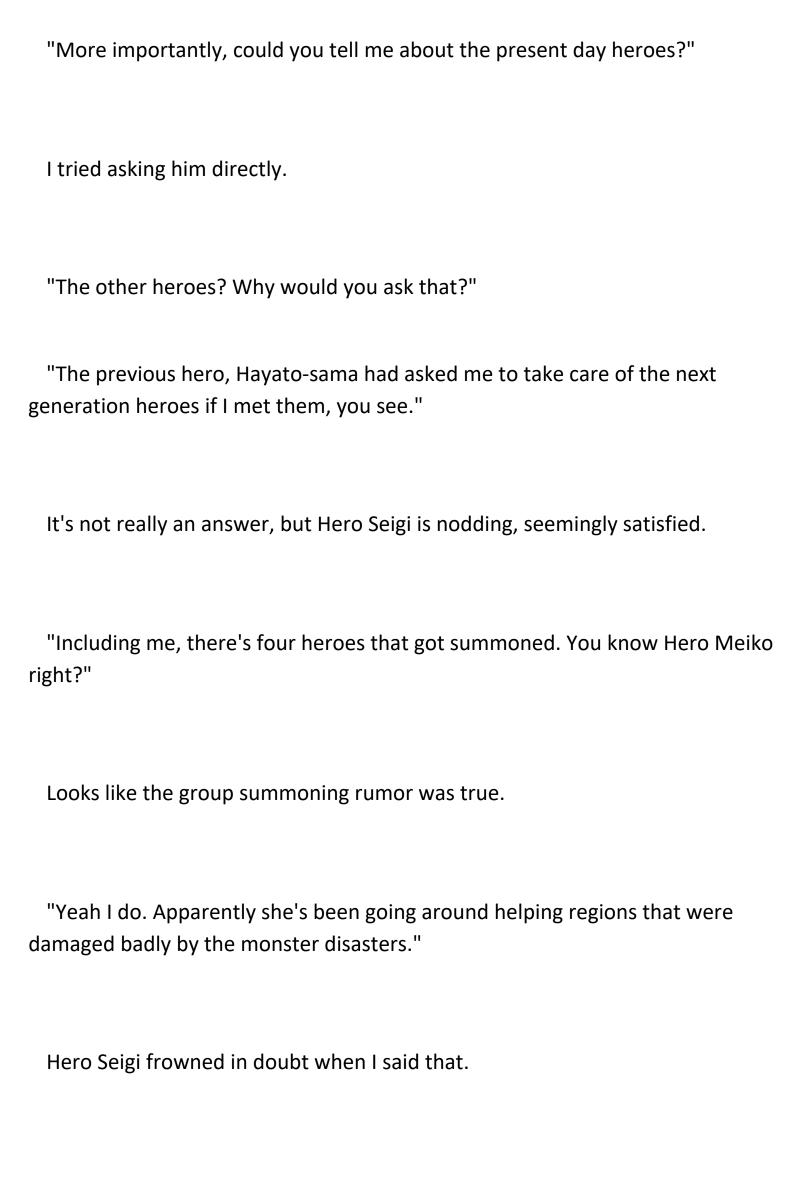
Feels like it's the first time I've gotten an item I wanted after all these trials.

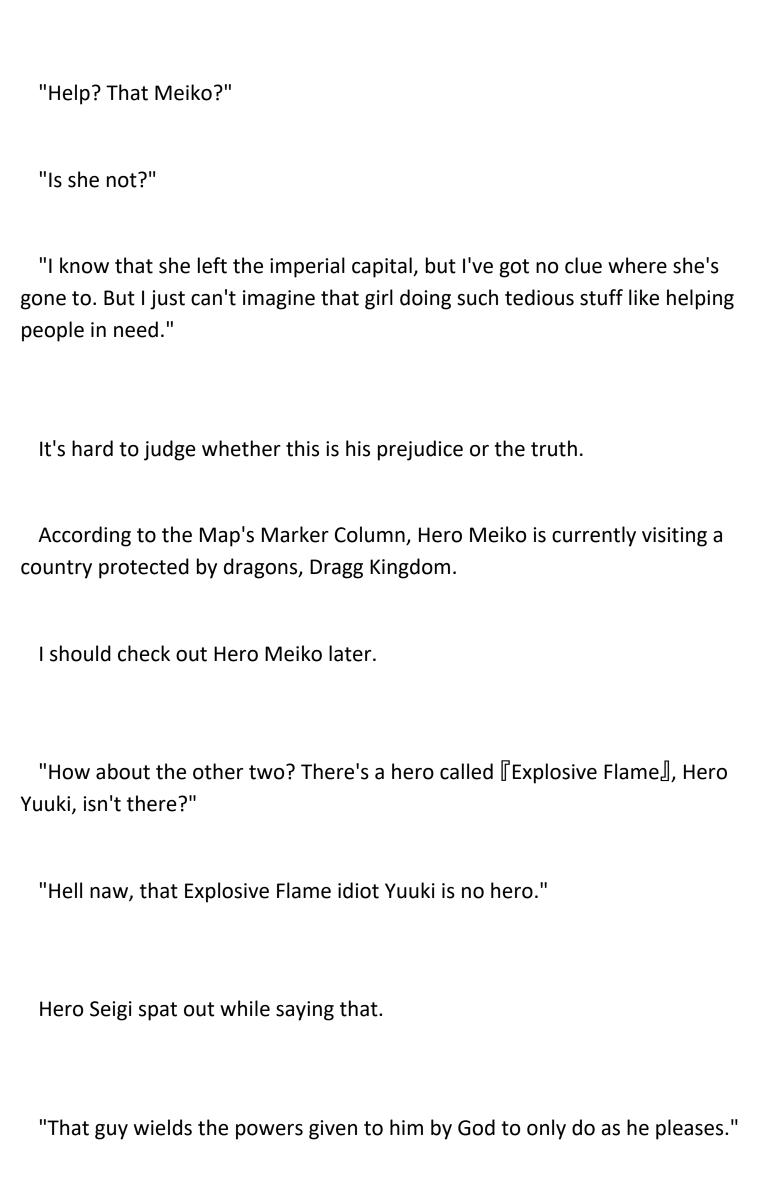
After firmly refusing Head Temple's invitation to the feast celebrating the trial completion, I left the temple.

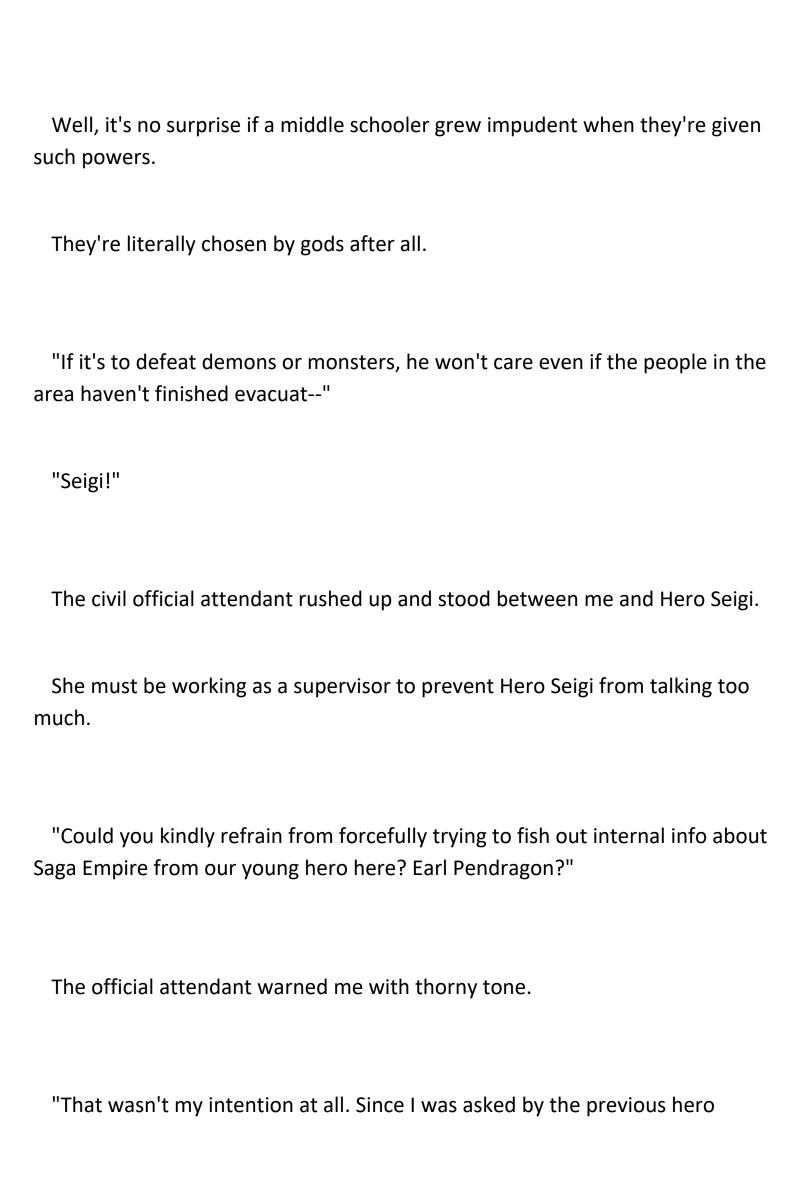
I mean the temple's meals are of the same bad tasting variety as the city's dinery.



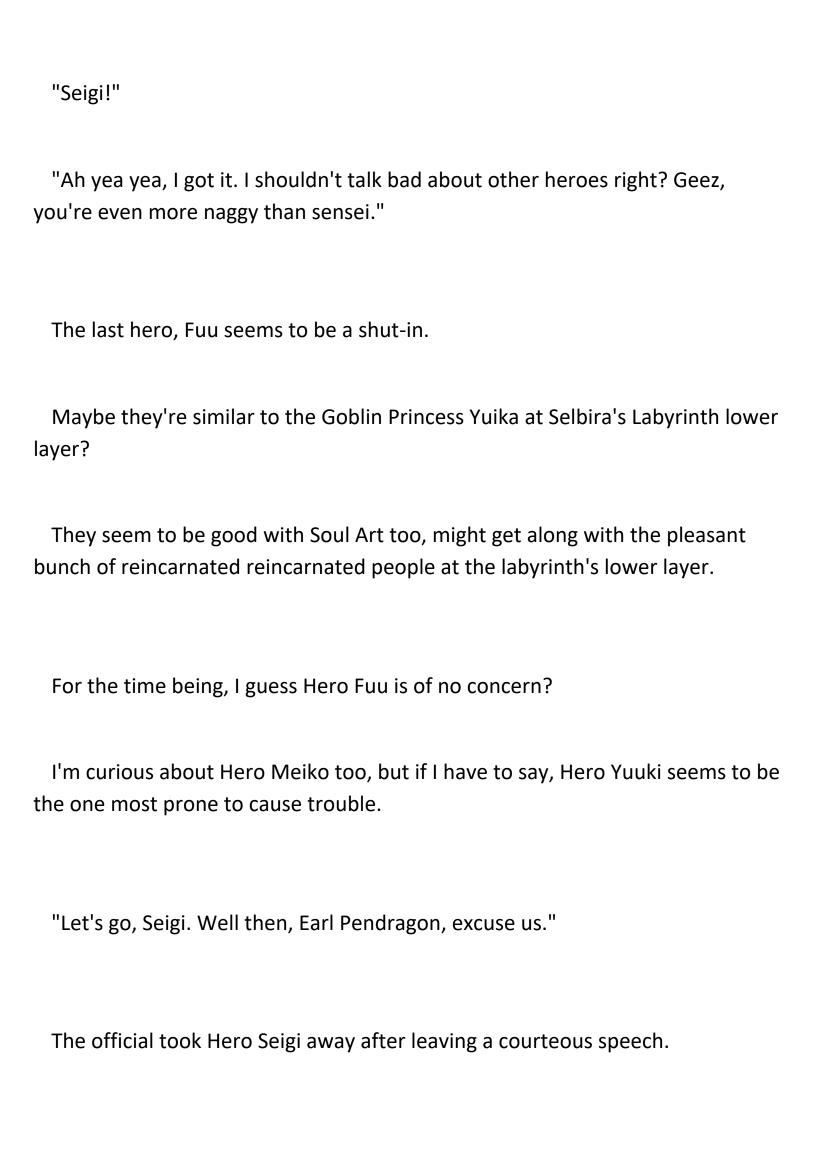
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I was met with a scene of Hero Seigi yelling [You're evil!] at a bakery shopkeeper in front of the store.
The shopkeeper was dragged away by the bandage attendant while shouting, "I'm not the only one! Everyone is doing it too!"
It kinda piqued my curiosity so I tasked Arisa and the girls to ask around about the situation.
Hero Seigi turned around when he noticed me.
"Did you come here to brag your victory, Pendragon?"
"The thought never crossed my mind."
Oh right, I forgot that we had a bet with Arisa at stake.
Looks like Hero Seigi has internalized me as the winner for exposing the crime syndicate Dujii.



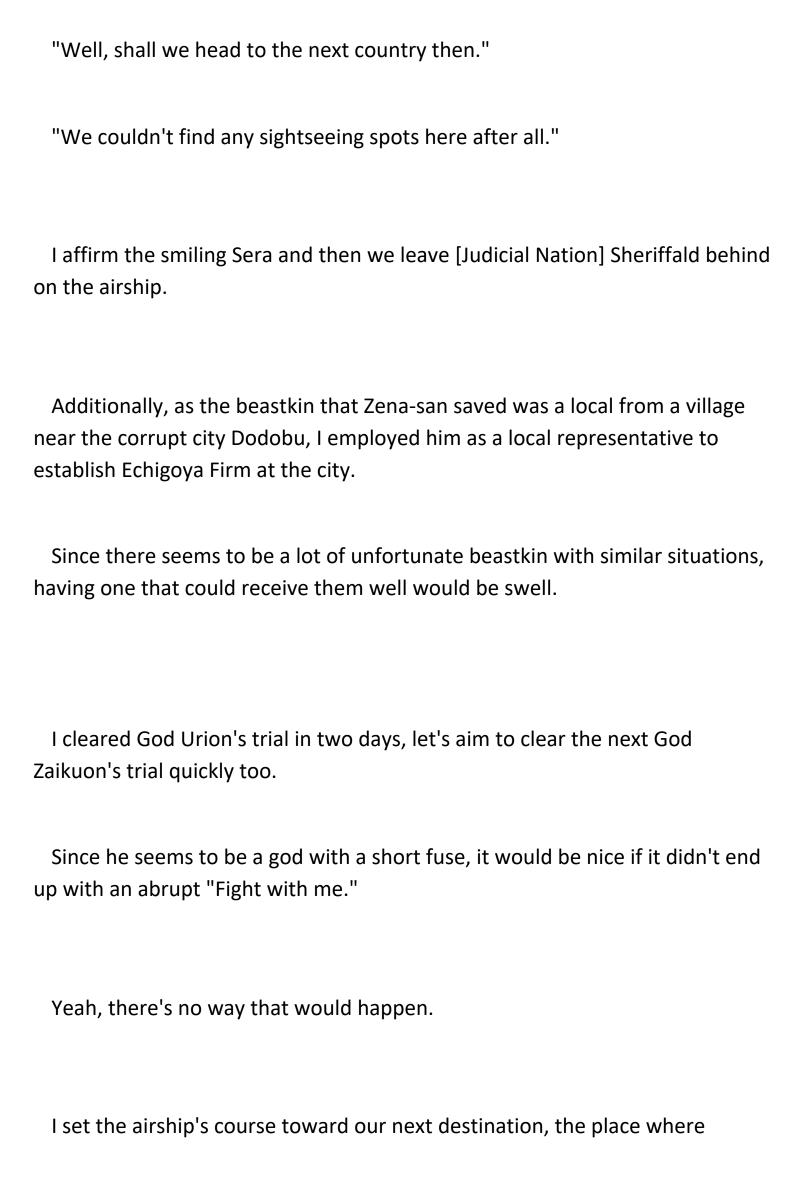








"Master, we've asked around."
Arisa told me what they heard about the bakery storekeeper.
Apparently, there was an underground bar below the bakery and it got exposed.
"I feel sorry for that bakery girl. Got followed around by a stalker and then he parents got arrested."
I just noticed that this bakery was the store from that time.
The punished 100-man platoon commander's words flashed on my mind
[Her parent said "I'm never giving my daughter to soldiers and guards."]
I see. It was probably not because of "corrupt soldiers and guards", but that it would "expose the underground bar."
I feel refreshed now that one mystery was solved even though it was nothing major.

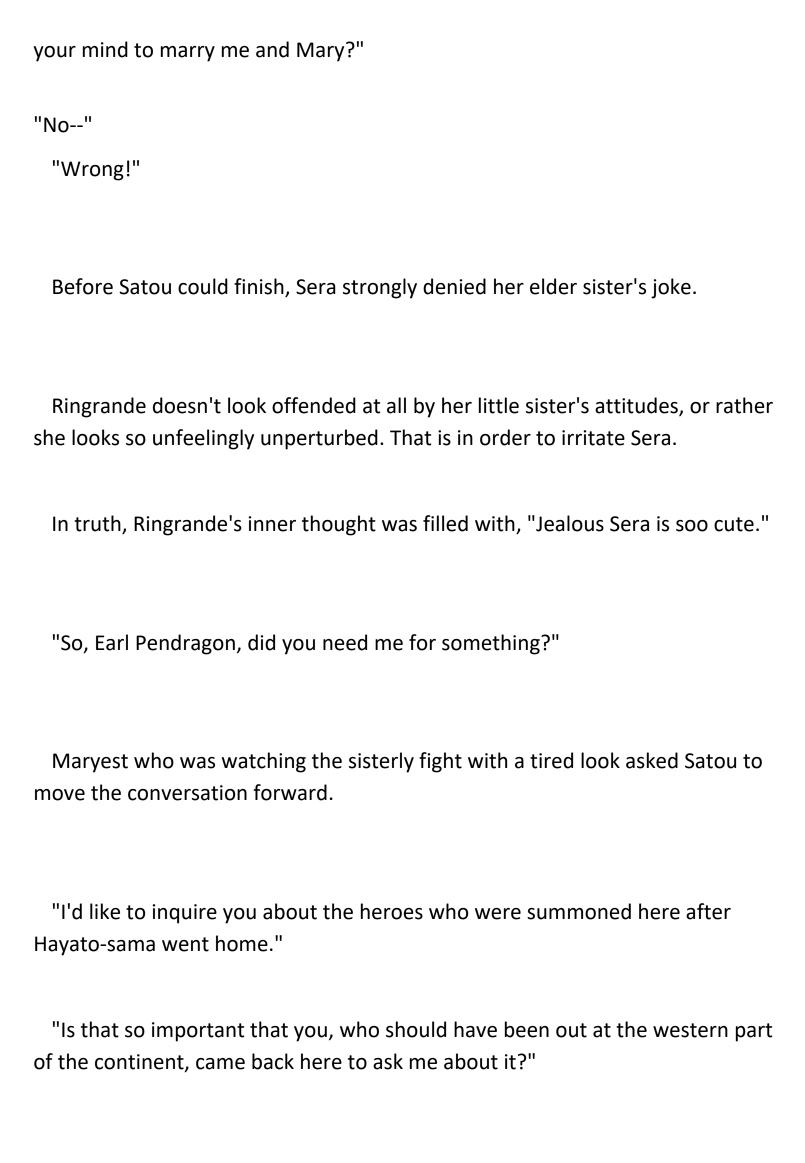


Zaikuon Main Temple is located, the [Country of Transformation] Pier Rock.

16-43. The Four Heroes (1)

* This is not from Satou's perspective. Third person point of view.
"Oh my? I thought it was unusual for Sera to ask me a favor, so it was your doing?"
At the room in the royal castle's villa given to Saga Empire's imperial princess Maryest, as her friend, the [Skyshredding Witch] Ringrande greeted the guests
"My apologies if it looks like I'm sneaking on you."
"Satou-san, there is no need to apologize. I have no doubt that Ane-sama had noticed it the moment I asked to meet her."
Beside the apologizing [Demon Lord Slayer] Earl Satou Pendragon, [Oracle Miko] of Tenion Temple and also the little sister of Ringrande spoke out in irritation.
Sera's complex towards her older sister is as strong as always.

"And so Satou, since you want to meet Mary, that means you've made up



Princess Maryest asked back as if she was probing Satou's true intention.

"Yes, I ran into Hero Seigi-dono in one of the countries I visited and heard about the other heroes from him, thus I couldn't help but wanting to inquire Maryest-sama about them."

"Did you not ask Seigi-dono?"

"Of course I did, but his information was a bit too subjective..."

"Well, I guess it would. What about his attendants?"

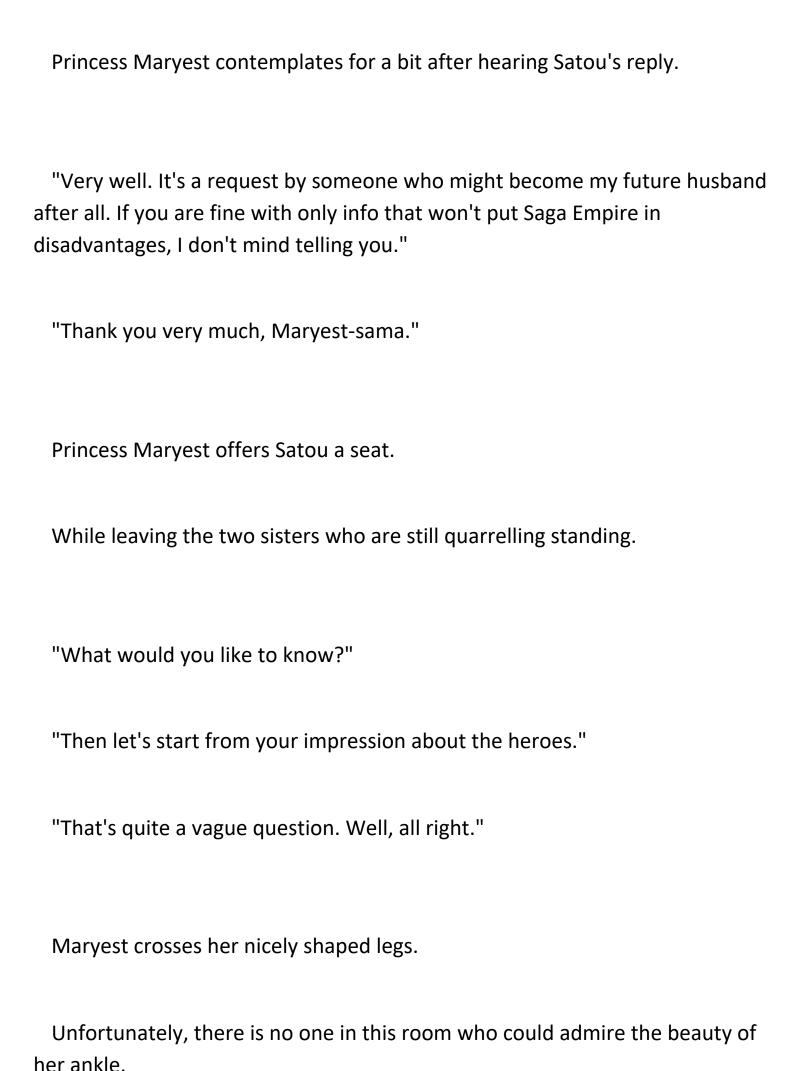
"It appears that they were cautions against me."

Satou scratches his head bashfully.

When he makes these gestures, he looks his age unlike his usual adult atmosphere, so Princess Maryest thought.

"I have my duty as a princess of Saga Empire. Are you aware of that?"

"Yes of course, I am. I wouldn't ask things like their Unique Skills or such. I merely wanted to hear what Maryest-sama thinks about their personality each and your impression on them."



"My impressions on the four heroes is that their immatureness really shows due to their young age, but generally they are [Existences that love justice]."

Her remark is seemingly unexpected to Satou as he stares at Princess Maryest's eyes as if probing her.

Sera who was quarrelling with her elder sister was seemingly alarmed by that as she left her sister and sat down next to Satou.

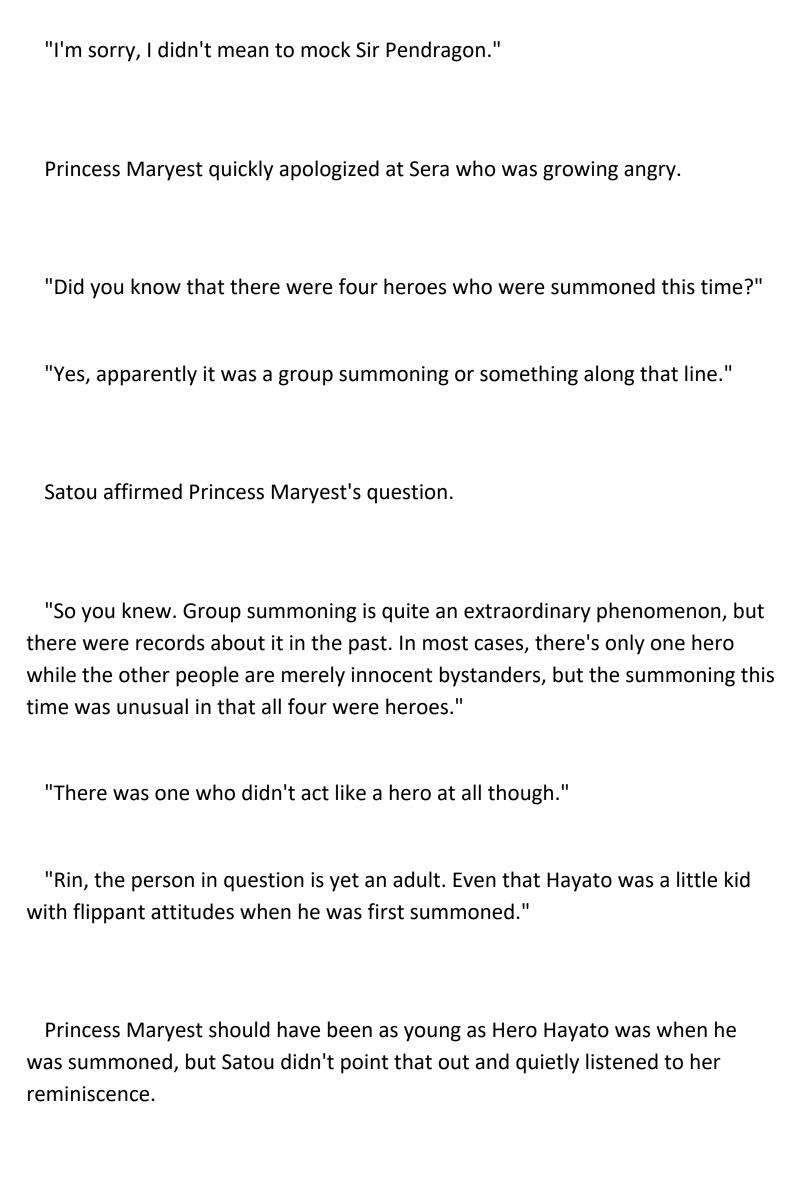
She's getting unusually close to him, but Satou himself doesn't seem to notice that.

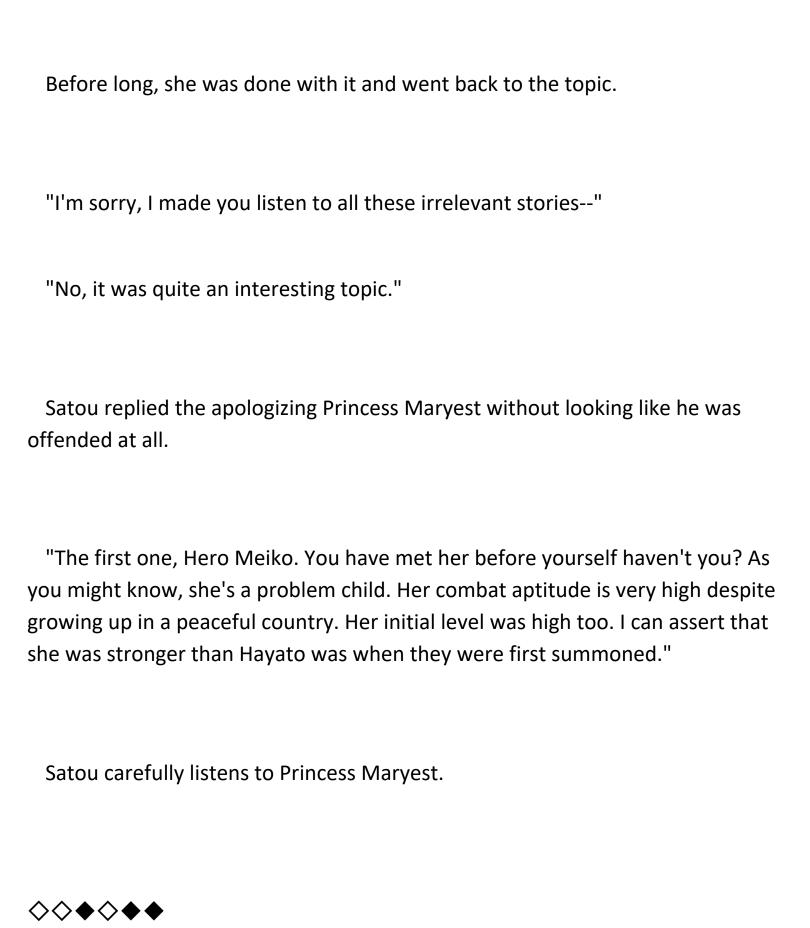
"You don't believe it?"

"No, the hero whom I met, Seigi, was a boy that exactly fits Maryest-sama's description."

Princess Maryest burst into laughter at Satou's serious response.

She probably found it funny that he said that like an adult would even though the two of them are only around two years apart.





Let's turn back the time a bit--when the Gods' Divine Punishment had just started.

"--I can't believe the [Northern End Magic Beast] sealed by the hero hundreds years ago has been revived!"

"Quit yappin' and prepare for defense! Fortress-Eating Elephant is gonna cross that mountain soon!"

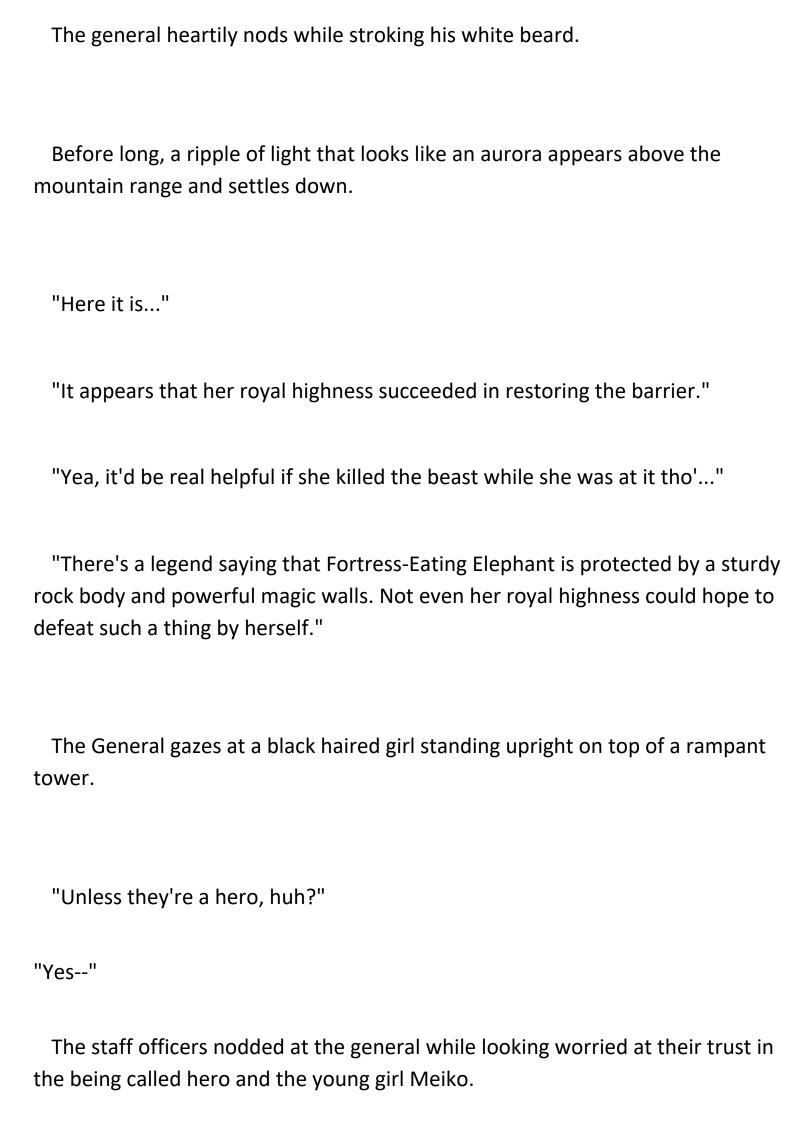
"So even the Mountain Wall of the First Emperor that could prevent Great Monstrous Fish (Tovekezeera)'s invasion is meaningless against the Fortress-Eating Elephant..."

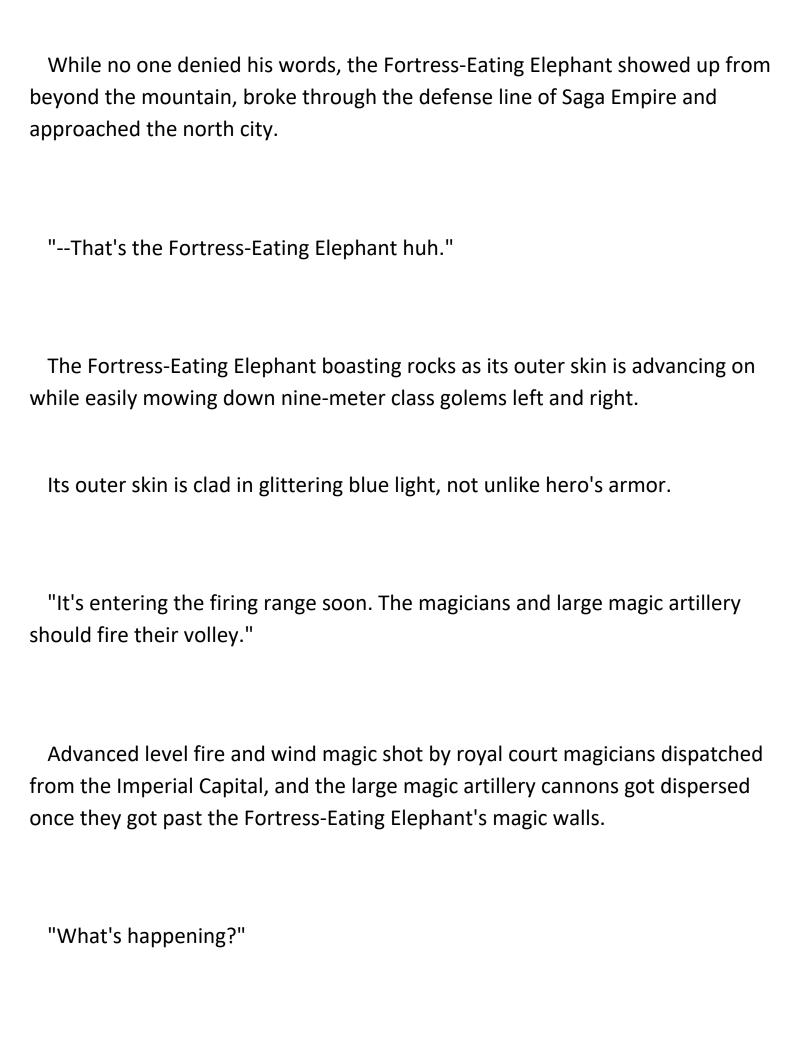
At one of the fortress protecting the city at Saga Empire's northern outskirts, a young officer was yelled at for his grumbling.

The defiant young officer's line of sight was fixed at the towering mountain range to the north.

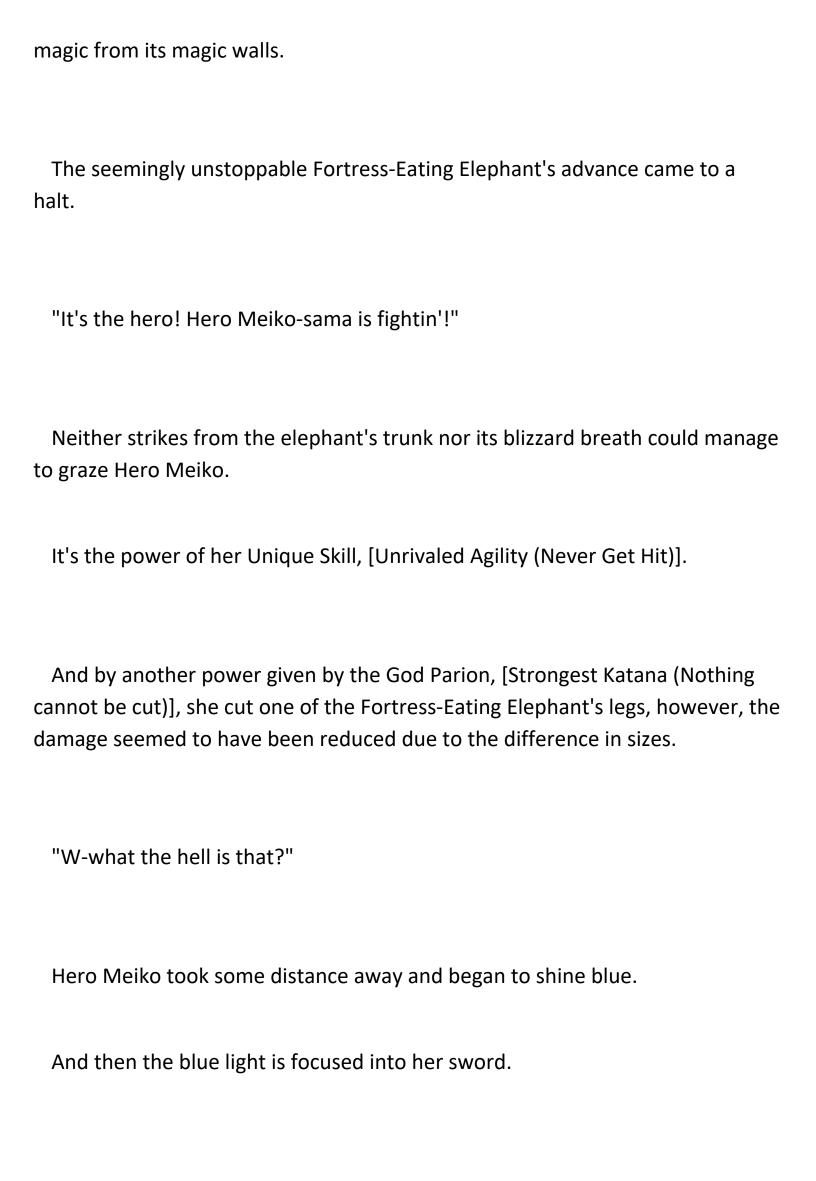
"Your excellency General, Great Monstrous Fish (Tovekezeera) from the northern sea won't invade through the barrier the Fortress-Eating Elephant broke through, will they?"

"No need to fret, was it Third Princess Porikest? That person has gone on her way to restore the barrier, leading a magic division. Nothing to worry about if we leave it to the Witch of Ice, said to rival the attendant of previous Hero, Princess Maryest."





The general had no way of knowing that the adamantite crystals on the Fortress-Eating Elephant's skin dispersed the already reduced power of the



"0000000ННННН"

The scene observed by the general and the others is that of a huge blue sword slashing at the Fortress-Eating Elephant, dealing massive damage.

Hero Meiko didn't manage to cut it in two, but she continued to slash at it without stopping, and eventually defeated the Fortress-Eating Elephant.

"So this is the powers of heroes..."

"Previous hero Hayato-sama was quite powerful himself, but I do not think Hero Meiko-dono is in any way inferior. Saga Empire will stay peaceful so long as we have Heroes-sama bestowed by God Parion on our side."

The general's words were mixed among the cheers for hero.

As he watched Hero Meiko who fainted from overusing her powers getting nursed by her attendants.

Looks like she pushed herself too much.

This was right before she was given oracle that led her to the Weasel Empire.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"The part where she doesn't know her own limit is troubling, but I think Hero Meiko's powers are a cut above the rest."

"Unlike Hayato, she's the type that rushes through enemy one after another without stopping, perhaps the fact that there is no attendants that could keep up with her on the battlefield is the drawbacks here."

To compensate for such drawbacks, Lady Ringrande was temporarily enlisted in her campaign to the Weasel Empire.

"Rusus and Fifi would be perfect, but those two went and left Saga Empire before they could meet Hero Meiko."

Hero Hayato's attendants who left Saga Empire, Rusus and Fifi, are apparently going around the stormy countries on the western part of the continent.

[&]quot;Would that sums it up for Hero Meiko?"

"Right. If you'd please tell me about Hero Seigi."

Princess Maryest sips the cup to quench her thirst.

"Hero Seigi isn't really suited for battle. If I had to say, I suppose he's a type that can only show his true worth by getting paired with Hero Meiko or Hero Yuuki, perhaps?"



It was about the time when Satou and the girls visited Sania Kingdom for the trial--

"Found it! There's a nest to the south-southwest. A huge group of underground monsters, numbering in four digits at least."

"That's a lot.... It's close by Sania Kingdom too, it's likely a nest of Sand Scorpions."

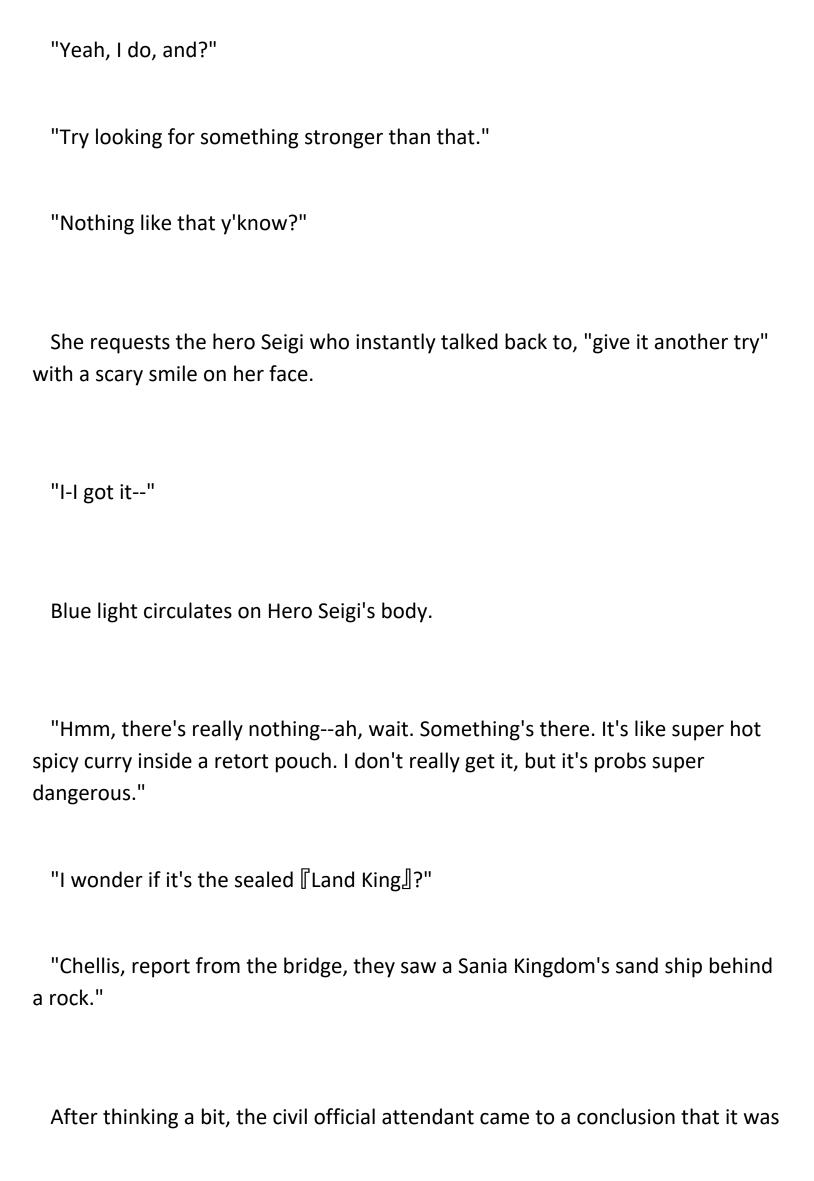
The civil official attendant made a guess from Hero Seigi's report while looking at the map.

His enemy search capability is as amazing as always, so the official thought. Even a combination of high level wind and earth magicians can't detect this far. "South-southwest, you mean around that sandstorm over there?" "Sandstorm? I don't see any tho'?" "Jema has a good sight after all. You should be able to see it too with Distant View." The civil official attendant tells the bridge about the course through the speaking tube, to check Hero Seigi's investigation with their own eyes. "You're amazing, Seigi. To think you found a nest of monsters hidden underground from this distance." "Chellis, looks like Moryu has something to say."

Attendant Moryu who's wearing the royal court magician robe drops her hood even lower as she looks at the civil official attendant while behaving like a

Rabbitkin attendant, Jema, said so to the civil official attendant, Chellis.





probably a regular check by Sania Kingdom's personnels.

"We should not needlessly involve ourselves in Sania Kingdom's matter. Let's just report what Seigi found to Sania Kingdom."

"Eeh, we're not gonna kill it? I can beat it with the \[Sword of Condemnation (Justice Wins)\] I got from Parion, I tell you. Let's farm some exp, c'mon."

Ever since he defeated a mid-class demon in a single blow, Hero Seigi has developed a tendency to overestimate his Unique Skill.

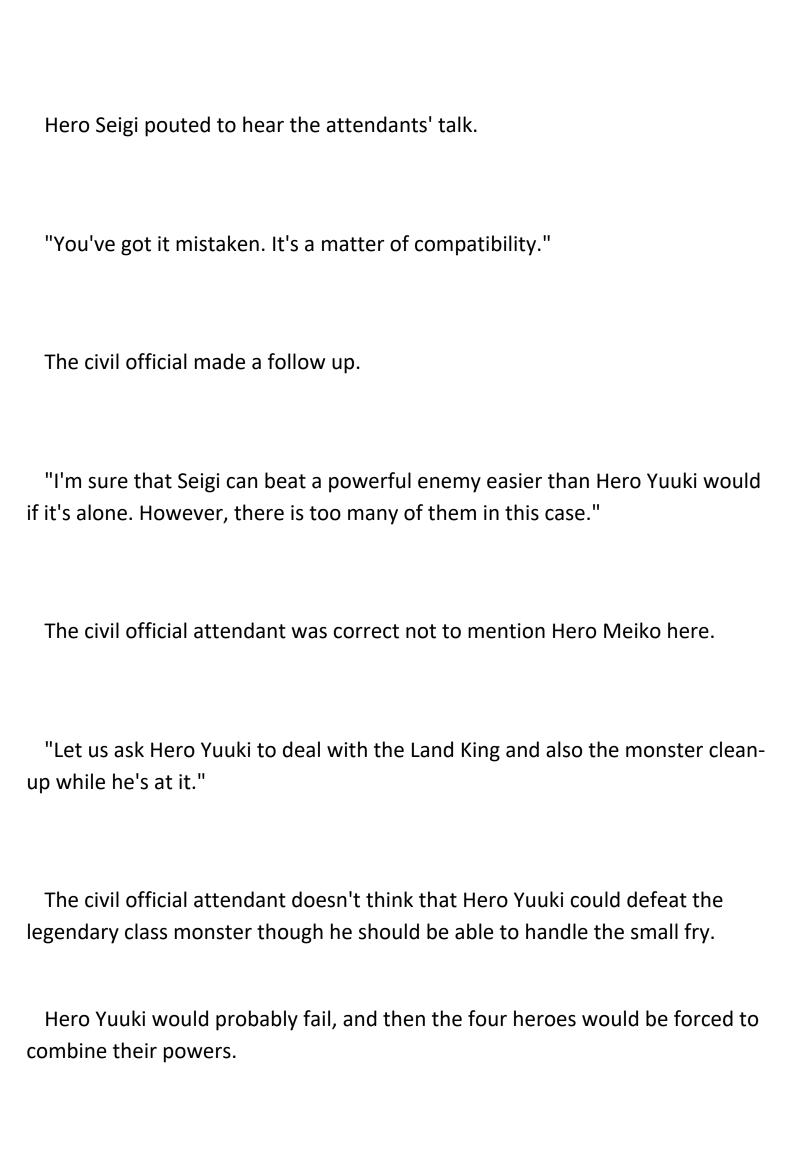
"That might be a good idea if there is only one enemy and without Sania Kingdom's people around, but the location is not ideal."

And even before that, the civil official attendant figured that hero Seigi alone probably couldn't win against a legendary class monster from the age of myth.

"Lots of Sand Scorpions have positioned themselves around it too."

"Yes, Hero Meiko and Hero Yuuki should be able to handle them, but it's impossible for Seigi."

"You saying I'm weaker than those two?"



By the civil official attendant's calculations, Seigi who's not good at fighting should start groping for a way to profit from something without doing much.

"Boo, it's always about Yuuki."

"Seigi, your powers aren't for defeating small fry. Yours is for the sake of exterminating demon lords."

She tightly hugs the complaining hero Seigi to make him waver.

As a youth in puberty with no experience about women, he absolutely has no way to resist the softness.



"Well, the guy can't read the mood and all, but he was the most helpful hero during the Divine Punishment uproar."

Thanks to him, they didn't have to dispatch scouts too far in dangerous missions, and since they could pin down the exact force needed to stop a stampede, they were able to efficiently deploy neither too many nor too few troops.



love it you know?"

Lady Ringrande teased her little sister by putting a meaningful intonation on the 'love' part.

"With all these sweets, it would feel too dull to only talk about the immature heroes. We have this occasion after all, would you be willing to tell us the story about Sera-dono's and Sir Pendragon's beginning of love?"

Seeking for more sweet stories, princess Maryest who had stuffed her mouth with a spoonful of cake brought up the subject about Sera and Satou.

Behind his calm face supported by Poker Face skill, Satou is gearing up his gray brain cells to get him out of this predicament.

However, the excited eyes of *three* people informed him that there was no escaping this.

16-44. The Four Heroes (2)

*This is not from Satou's perspective. Third person point of view.

"--Do you mind if we get back to talking about heroes?"

Satou, who was done telling the story of the time he met Sera after being pestered by the romance story-loving women, steered back to the topic at hand.

"Oh my, pardon me. I lost myself since your tale was so interesting. We were talking about Hero Yuuki next, were we not?"

"I think we were at the part about Yuuki being an unusual magician type hero."

Ringrande affirmed Maryest.

"By that do you mean, he's capable of using powerful magic like Maryest-sama?"

"I'm confident that I won't lose in my forte, lightning magic, but unfortunately, I'm completely outclassed in flame magic. However, since the hero is still inexperienced in spell control and precision, I suppose I still come out on top when it's against foes with powerful anti magic ability or someone strong in a one-on-one fight."

Maryest answered Satou's inquiry.

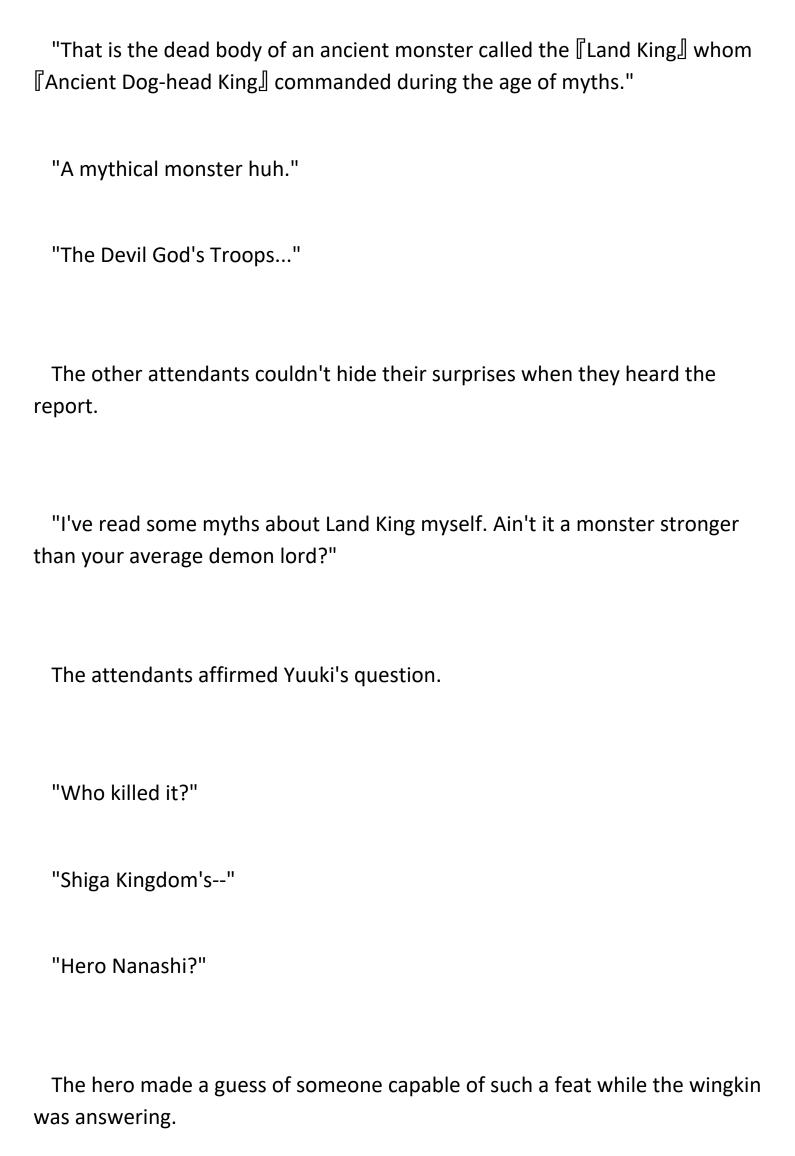


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"What is this? Why's there so few monsters here?"



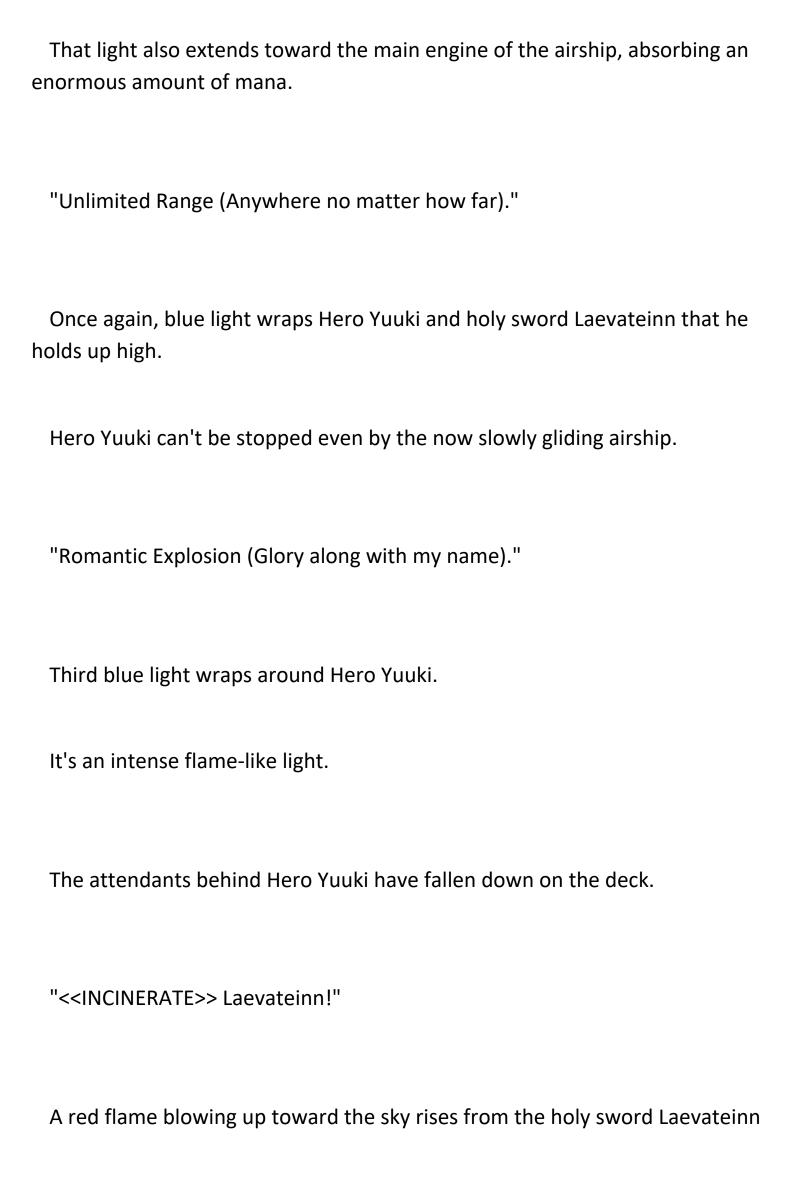








Hero Yuuki draws out the holy sword Laevateinn he took from his [Inventory].
"Buff me with support magic. Not the defensive ones. Just stuff that power up magic. Then put all your remaining mana into mine."
The attendants cast buff magic on the hero while the airship goes around to the Undead Land King's flank.
"Let's do this, full powerhey you guys, put some spirits into it!"
Hero Yuuki shouted at the attendants standing by behind him.
They're numerous. Unlike with other heroes, many are of level 30.
"Household Tuning (Everyone to me)."
Hero Yuuki's body is wrapped in blue light which then connects to the attendants behind him.
The attendants let out voices of agony.



once he read aloud its holy verse.

Red and blue flames combine together into an abominable purple flame that scorches heavens.

"--EAAAAAAAT THIIIIIIIIS!"

With the swing of the sword, the purple explosive flame violently rushes forward.

That flame swallow the Land King's body that was far outside the normal range in the distance, sinking it into the depth of hellfire.

"Kukukuku, I'm strong. My magic blow away even mythical monsters."

While illuminated by the burning light of red and blue flame, Hero Yuuki is laughing out loudly on his knee as he clings to his holy sword on the deck.

Light of ecstasy dwells in his languid sunk eyes.

Perhaps, the spellcaster that had turned Land King into an undead was inexperienced as the Undead Land King's defensive power and health were far below its living state's, yet it was still a monster that couldn't be defeated by ordinary magic.

The firepower of the flame the Hero unleashed just now probably surpasses even the forbidden spell of flame magic, [<<White Inferno>>].



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

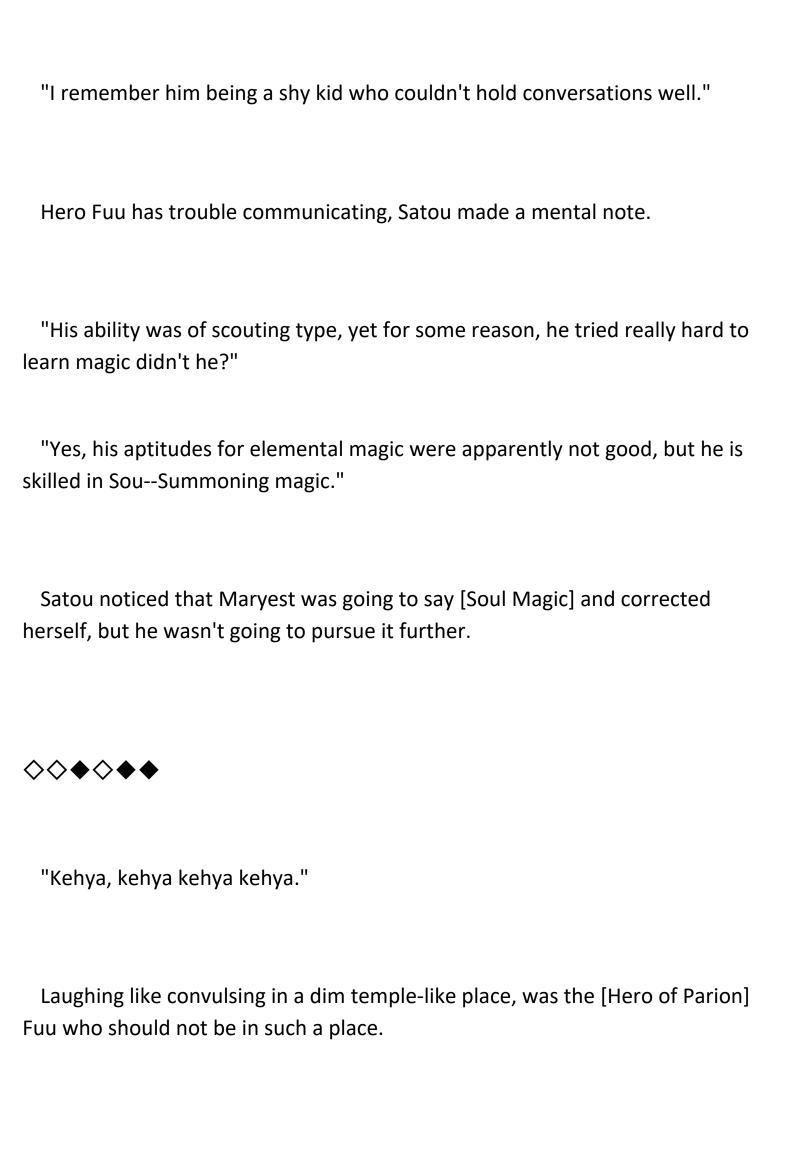
"His desires for acknowledgment might be a bit stronger than others, but well, he's generally a good kid. His tendency to get hasty is not unlike Meiko, but I'm sure it can be fixed so long others care for it."

Ringrande didn't say out loud whom did she compare him to, but everyone here seemingly correctly guessed who it was.

"Initially he went around randomly spewing flames everywhere like a pyromaniac, but once we put him with some reliable attendants, he's gotten a better."

Satou thought that Hero Seigi also had some dependable attendants with him.

"I'm not that well acquainted with the last hero, Fuu."



"Our regal familiars, Vampire Knights, have no equal!"
Before Hero Fuu's line of sight are Vampire Knights who are fighting without baring anything as if to brag their beautiful bodies.
They're fighting monsters summoned by Hero Fuu.
Even though he's alone here, he seems to have the habit to refer himself with 'we' and 'our'.
The way he could suddenly scream out loud in between his usual blurred voice is probably another habit of Hero Fuu.
"Our level went up once again. And now, recycle of dead monsters"
Hero Fuu stares at the corpses suspiciously, then the corpses get revived into undeads.
It must be the work of Soul Magic [Animate Undead] cast without a chant.
"Second Round. Go vanquish them again."

	As ordered, the Vampire Knights jump on the monsters that were revived as ndeads.
aı	"One platoon of level 50 Vampire Knights should be done by today's end after nother 100 sets."
th	While muttering to himself, Hero Fuu summoned more monsters and offered neir neck on the Vampire Knights.
CC	"We will raise our level once a platoon of level 50 Vampire Knight is omplete."
	A bracelet made from Blue Crystal is equipped on the kehya kehya-ing Hero uu.
	"We have plenty of mana so long this bracelet is on us."
	It's a terminal device bracelet for City Core that originally shouldn't have allen onto a hero's hand.
	"Half of the vast amount of Saga Empire's mana is for us to freely use at will."







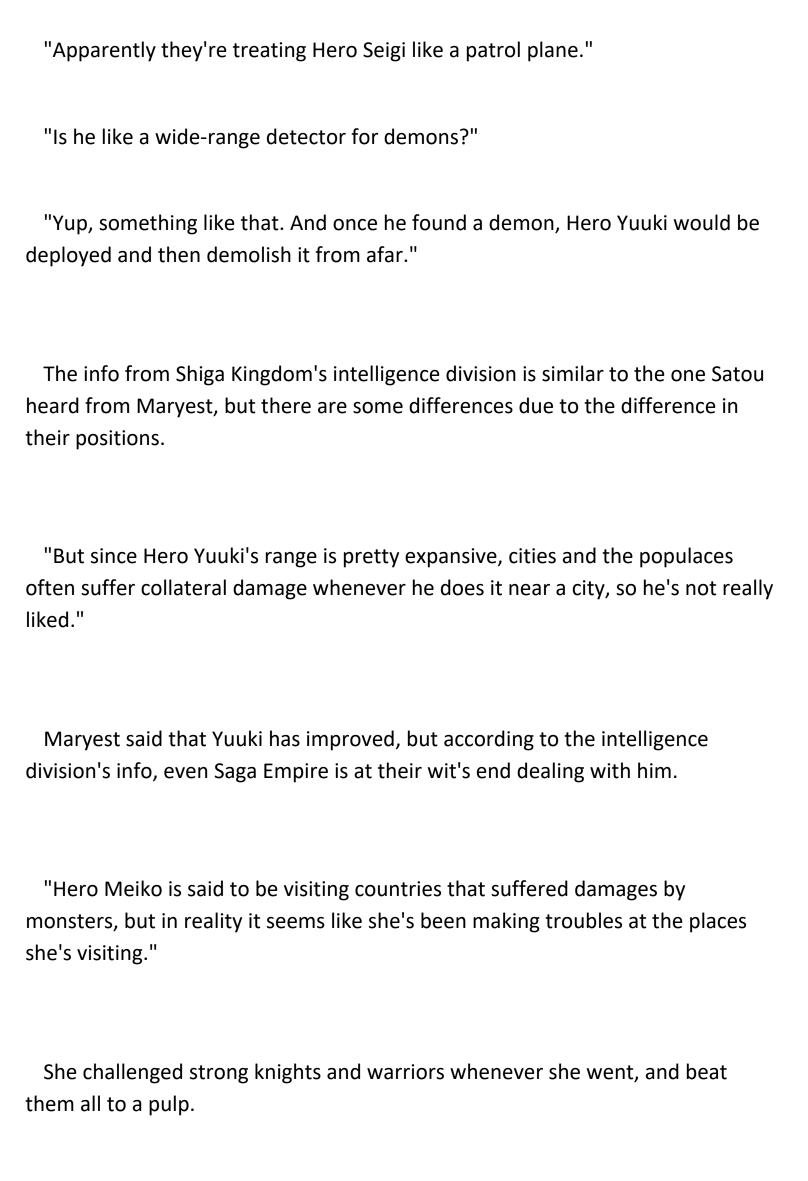




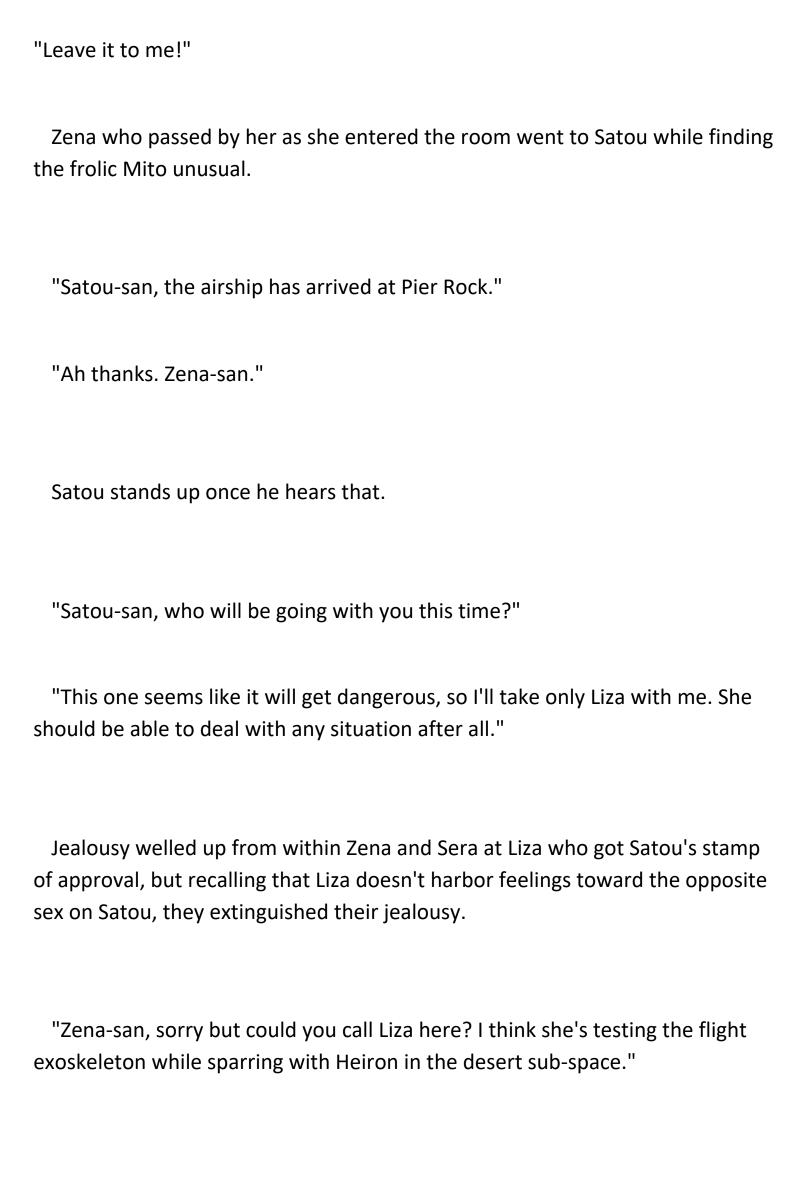


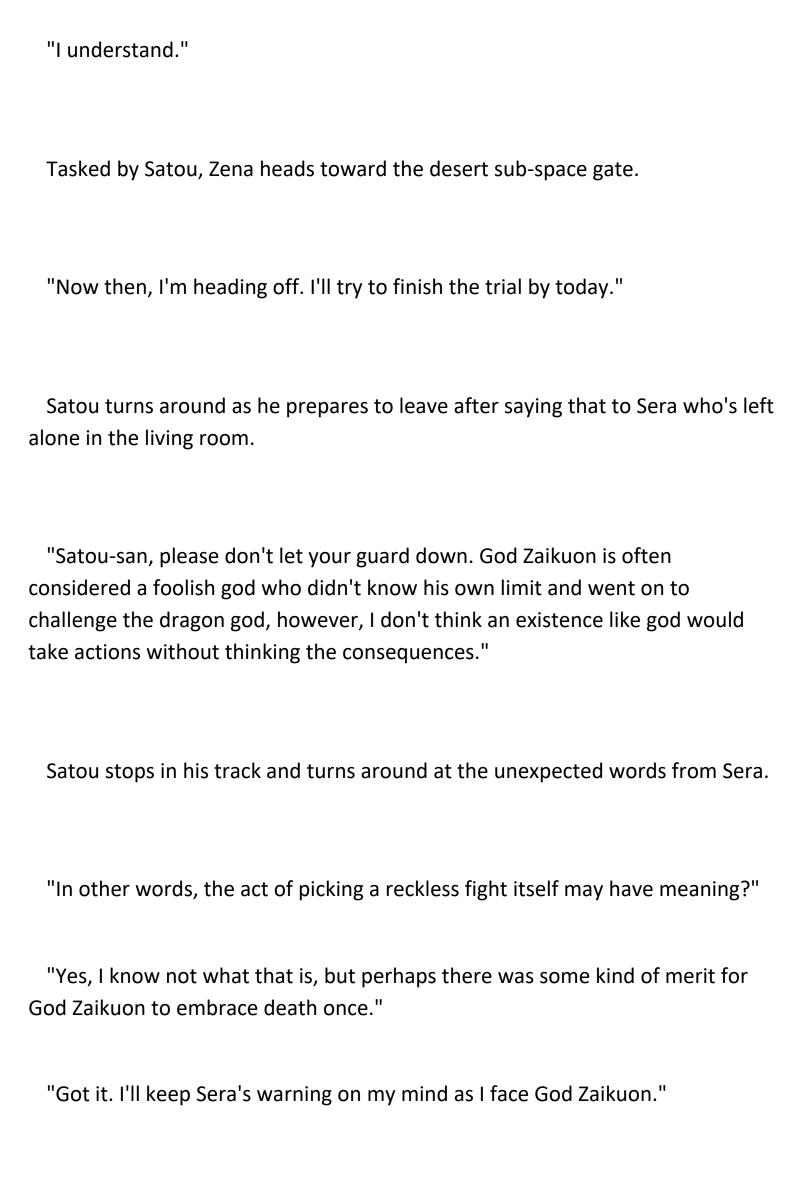


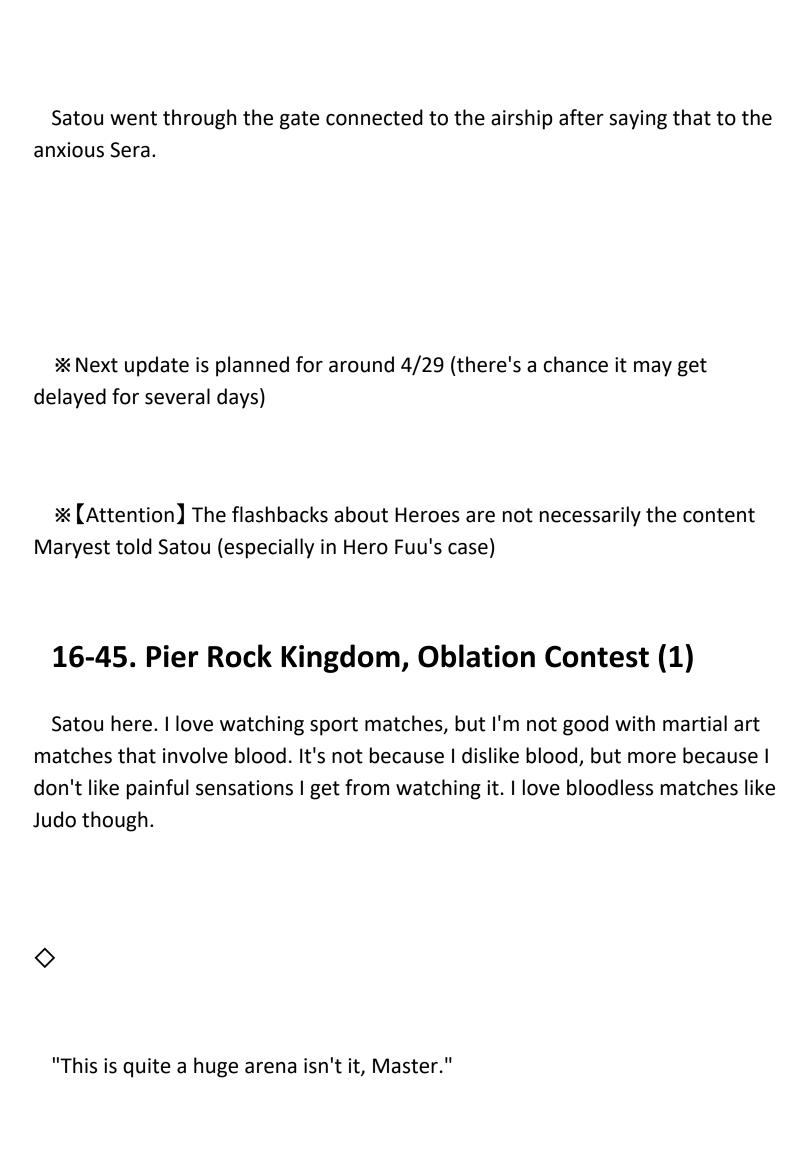












Liza is looking over an arena made of ocher colored stones from the audience seat.

This arena is apparently a historical structure magically made in the ages of Furu Empire.

Liza and I headed straight to the Zaikuon Main Temple the instance we arrived at Pier Rock, but since the only Zaikuon miko who had Oracle skill was participating in a tournament at the arena, the ritual is postponed until after her matches are over.

Thus, I went with Liza to see the crowded tournament and also to kill times.

"Huge~?"

"It's really really pig nanodesu."

<TLN: No, it's not a typo.>

Tama and Pochi showed up like poof.

Looks like they got here, the audience seat, from the airship's gate through Tama's ninjutsu.

Judging from the times, they must be on lunch break.

[Show 'em the strength of [Warriors of Garleon]!]

[Don't ya dare lose to Garleon temple followers! Make it known that [Holy Warriors of Zaikuon] are the strongest eveeeer!]

Cheers erupted from the audience.

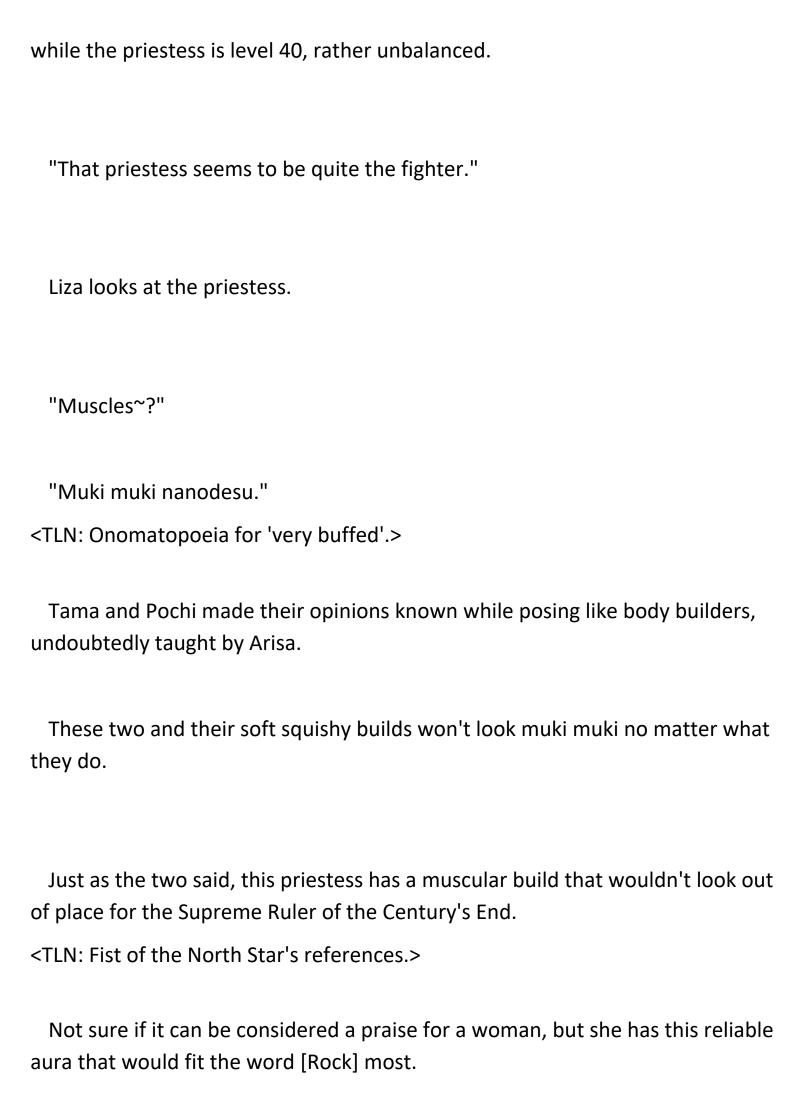
The tournament this time appears to also serves as an oblation contest, all the players belong in teams bearing their god's names and they're donning mantles and armor bearing the holy marks.

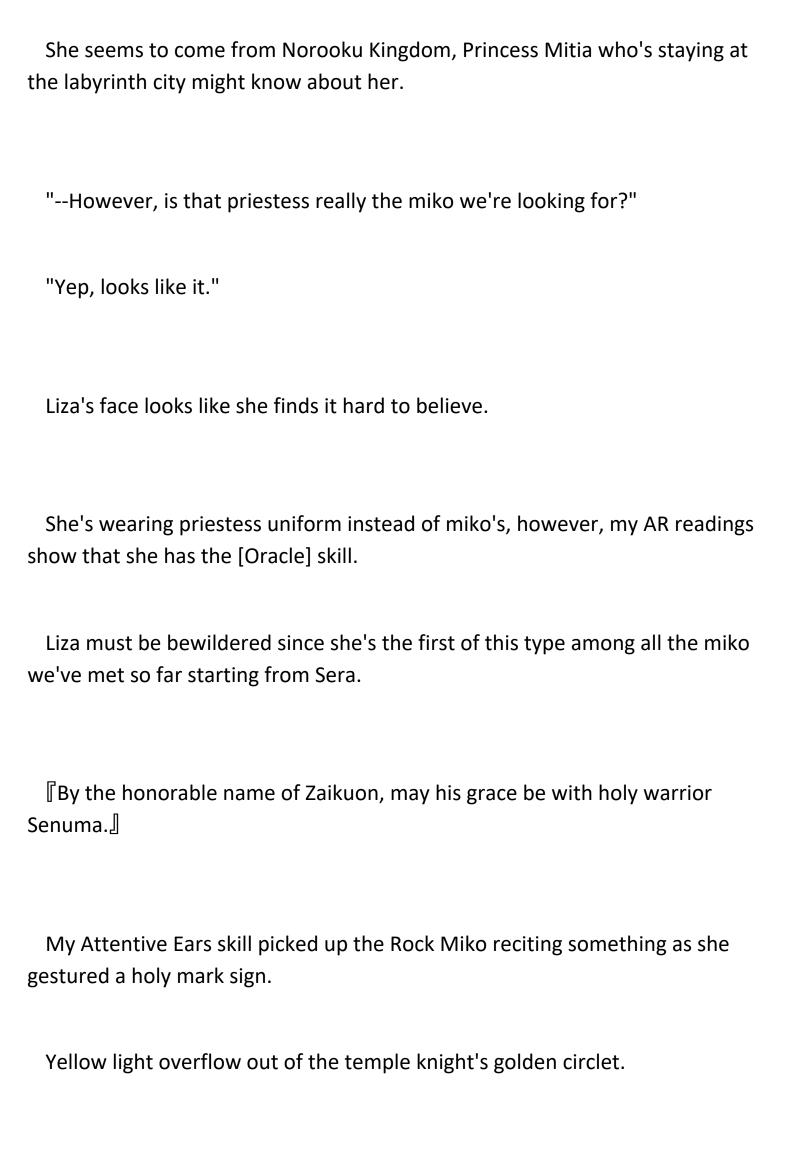
There seem to be bets that also serve as almsgiving, lots of bookmakers bearing the holy marks loiter around.

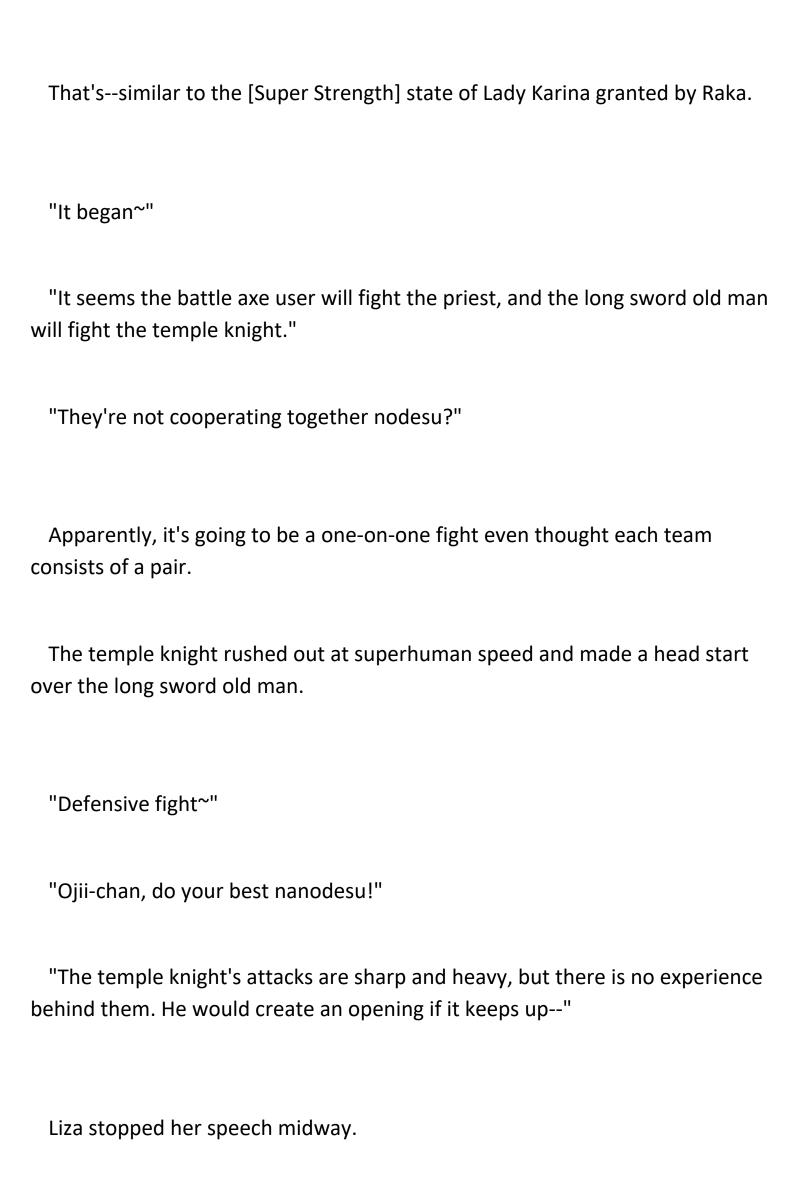
"The players for the next match have made their entrance it seems."

Garleon team is a pair of a giant man holding a huge two-handed battle axe, and an old man with a long sword. Both are of upper level 30s, none carries a shield.

Zaikuon team has a handsome young male temple knight equipped with a small shield and a one-handed sword, and a priestess holding a long mace that looks like an iron club along with a round shield. The temple knight is level 29

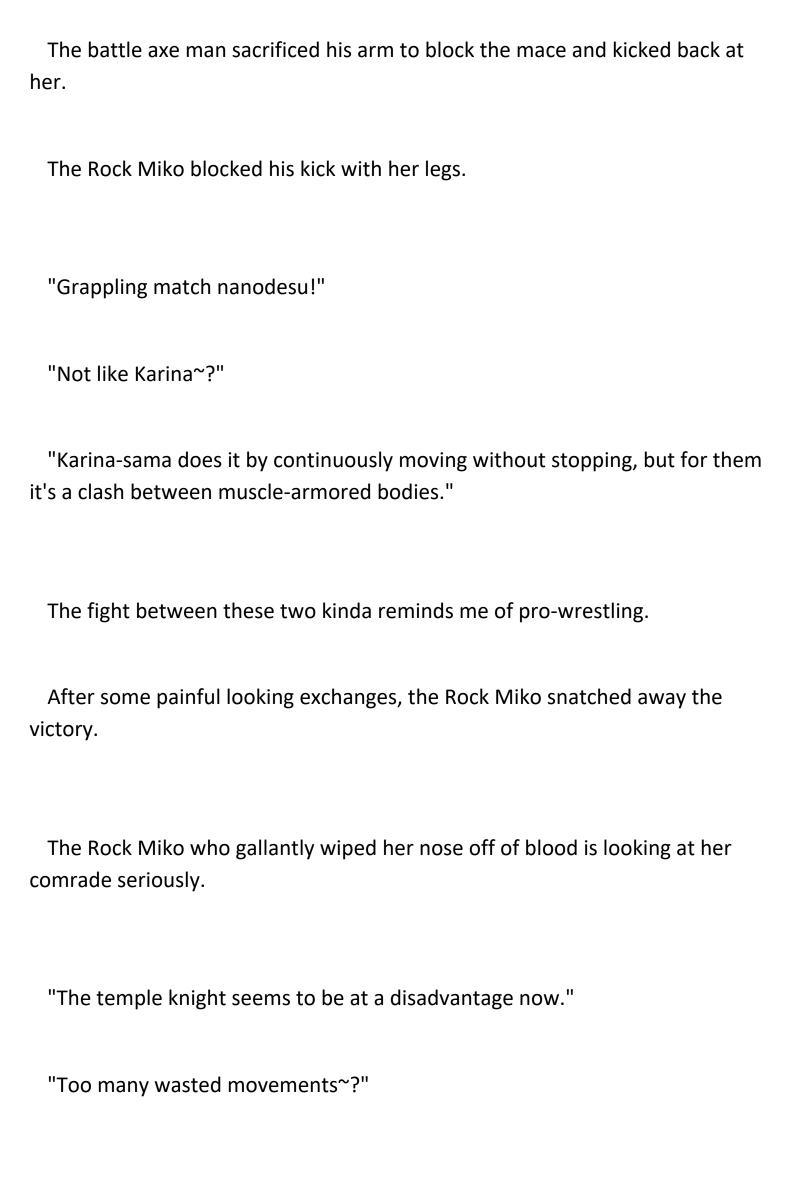




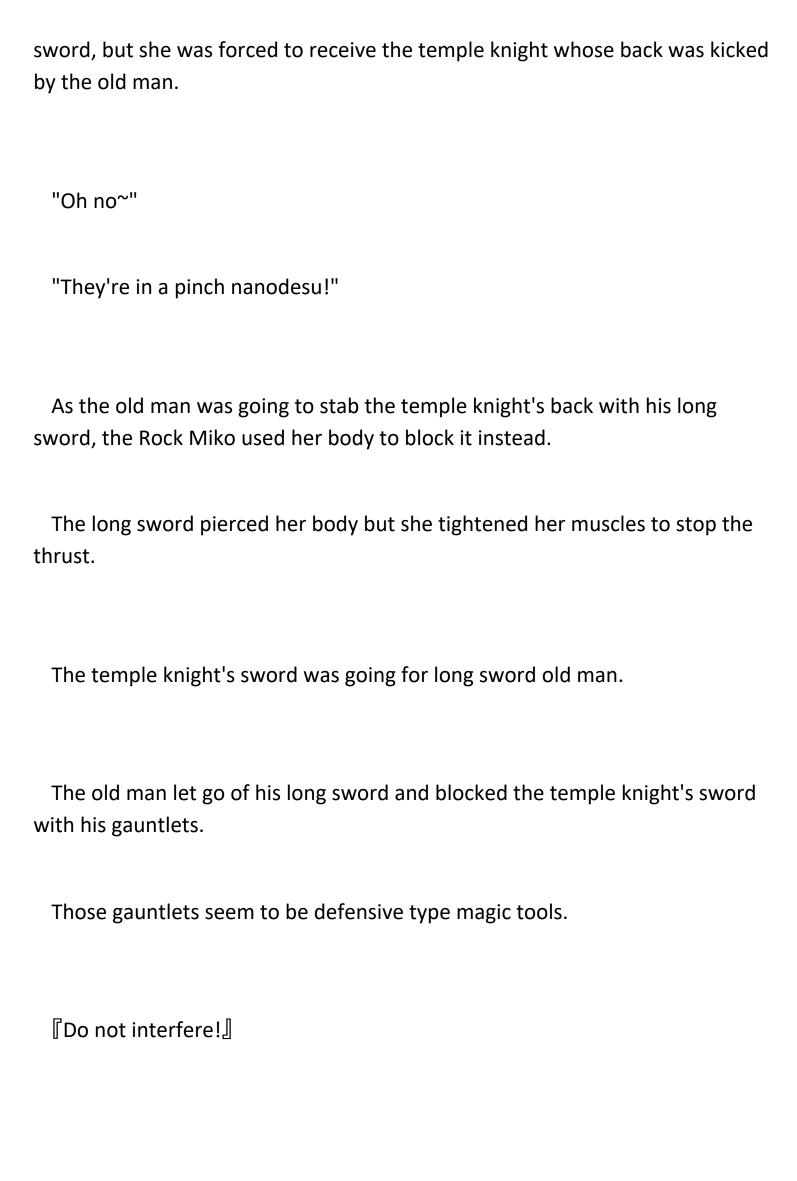








"Ojii-chan is moving so wonderfully wondrous nanodesu." The temple knight has exhausted his mana and is gasping for breath, but he's unscathed. On the other hand, even though the long sword old man is fiercely attacking the temple knight with a composed looking face, I know from AR readings that he's also quite exhausted himself. There are cuts dyed in red on the old man's surcoat, put over his armor, here and there. "Surprise attack~" "He dodged it nodesu!" The long sword old man smoothly evaded the Rock Miko's mace who rushed on him from behind. The temple knight tried to slash at the old man's flank, but that opening was a trap, as the old man parried the temple knight's sword and guided it toward the Rock Miko instead. The Rock Miko turned her neck and managed to dodge the temple knight's



The Rock Miko who had thrown away the long sword was stopped by the temple knight when she tried to help him.

And then the temple knight put all his body weight on the sword to push down the old knight in an attempt to end the fight.

"Auch."

"Shoddy nanodesu."

"It cannot be helped. There is no way to evade that."

When they were close enough their foreheads could collide, the old man exploded his gauntlet decorations to shot out small pellets.

Even the yellow light shields couldn't block them all, perhaps because the explosion was too close, the temple knight staggered as he got hit by some of the pellets.

The old man snatched away the temple knight's sword and swung it toward its former owner.

"Tackle~"

"Nice assist nanodesu."

The Rock Miko shoulder rammed the old man and immediately got away from him using the recoil, before she swung around her long mace at him.

The old man managed to handle it for a few swings, but he couldn't endure the Rock Miko's strength as his sword got thrown off of his hand, cornered, he declared his loss.

Once the match was over, the Rock Miko began to chant in order to heal the temple knight.

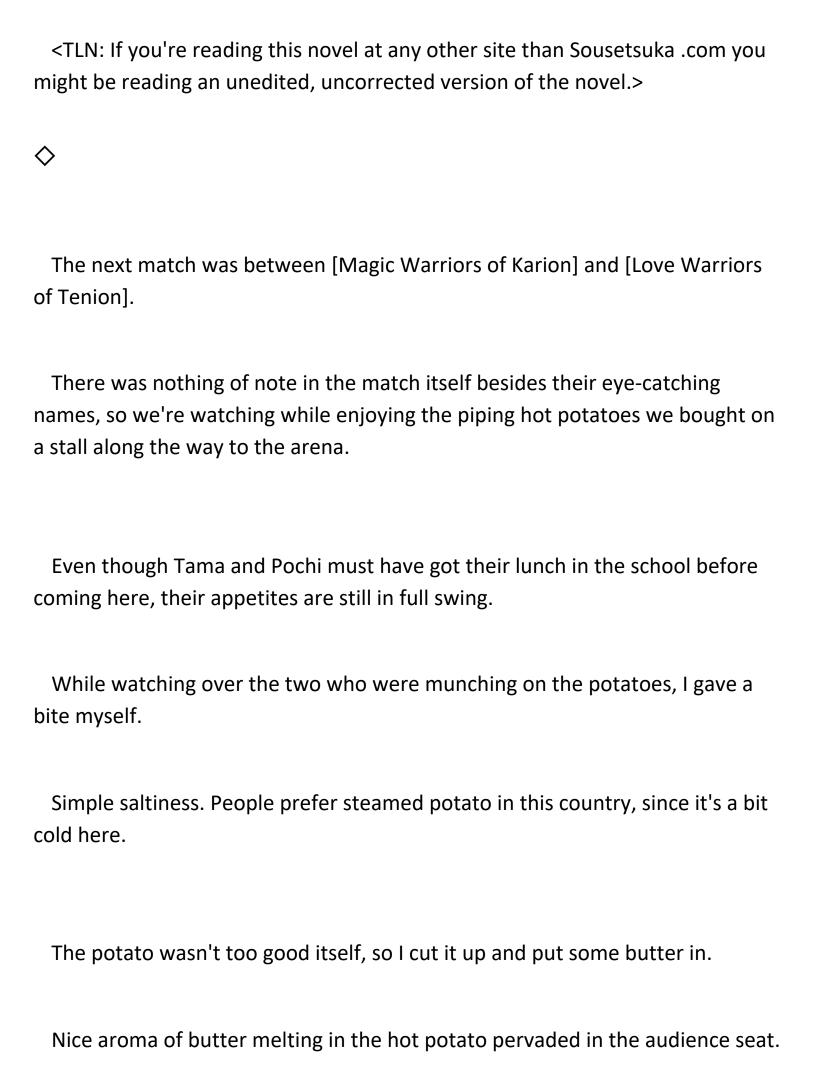
"Failed~?"

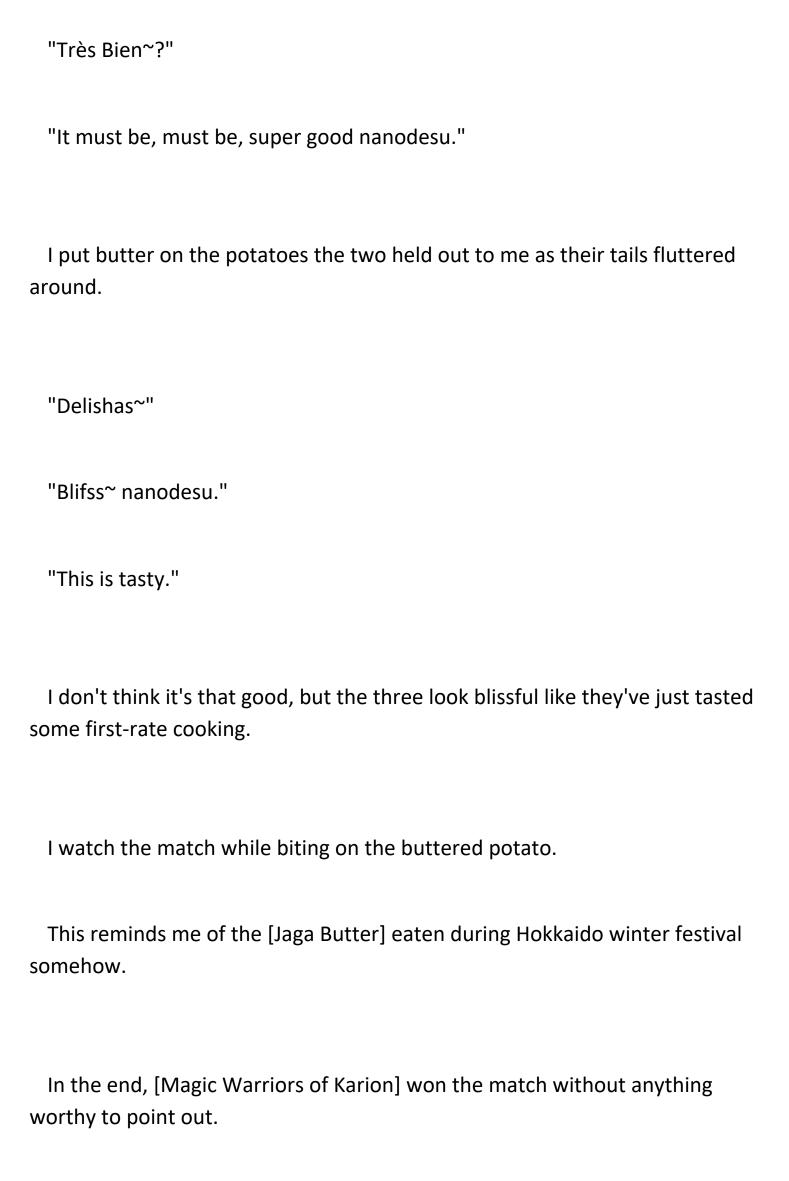
"Fanburu nanodesu."

Looks like she failed to cast the healing spell.

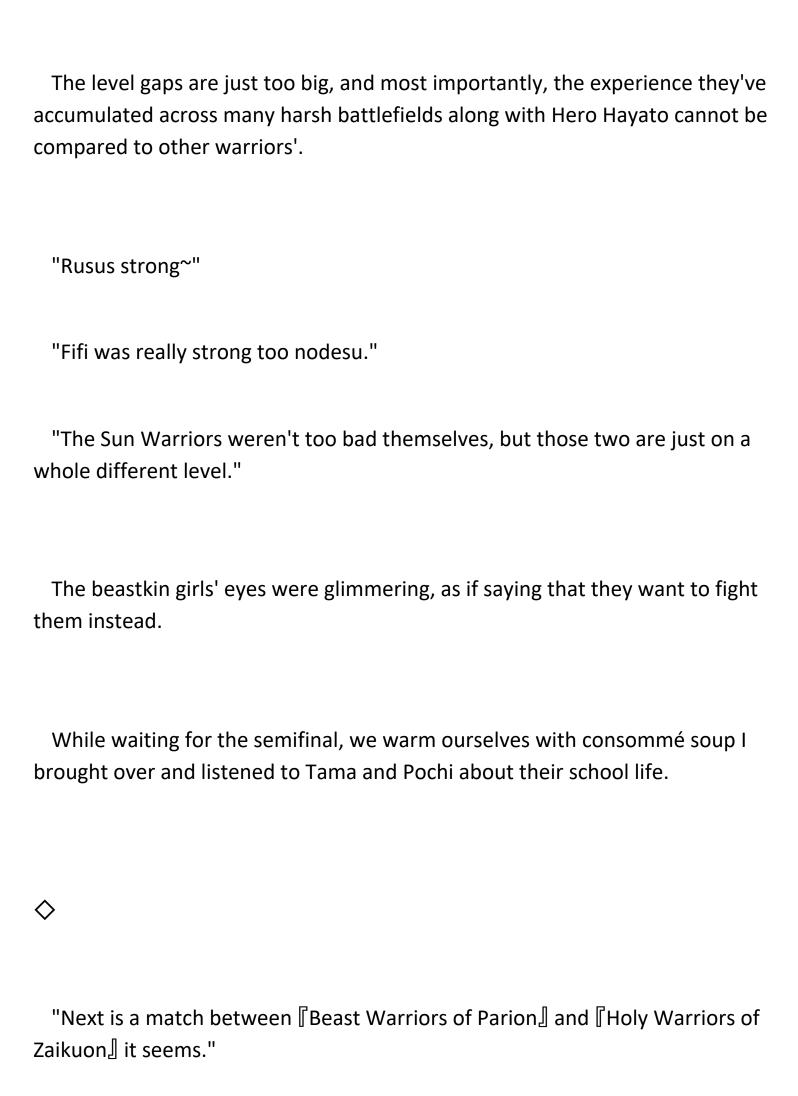
The Rock Miko apologized to the temple knight while looking sorry, but he pushed her aside and went to the waiting room without even a hint of anger.

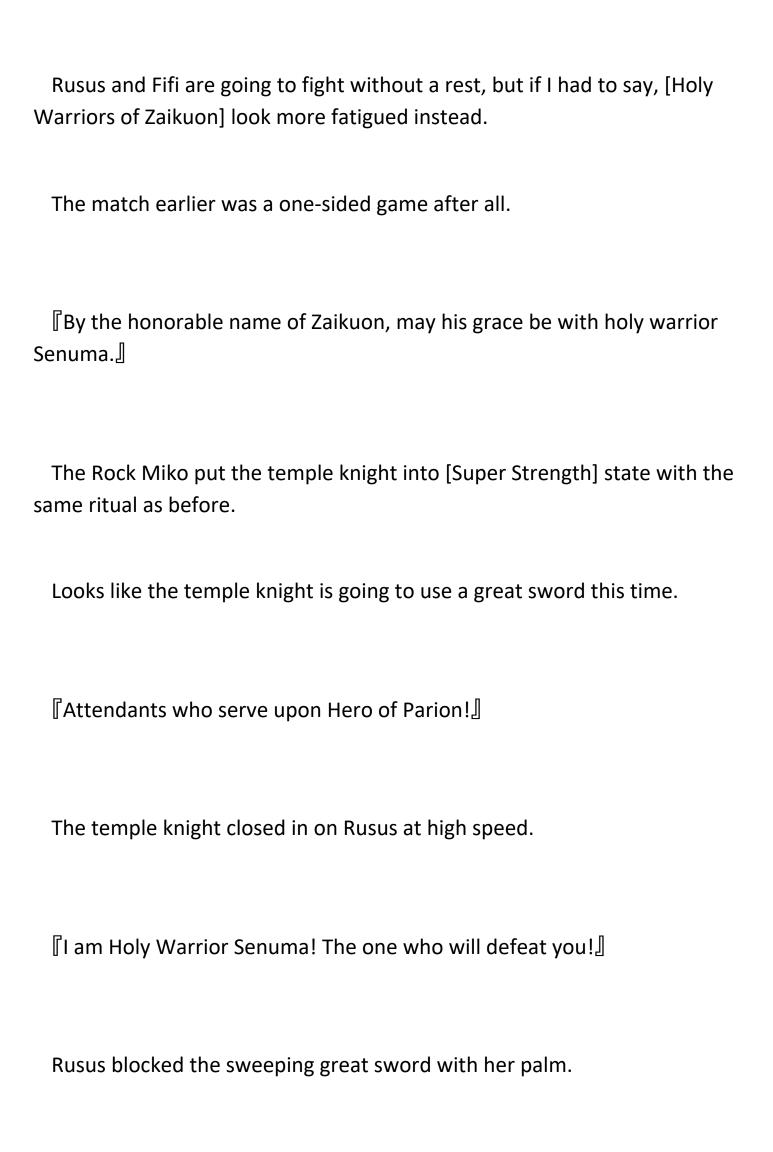
He must feel awkward losing after he tried to finish the match by himself.

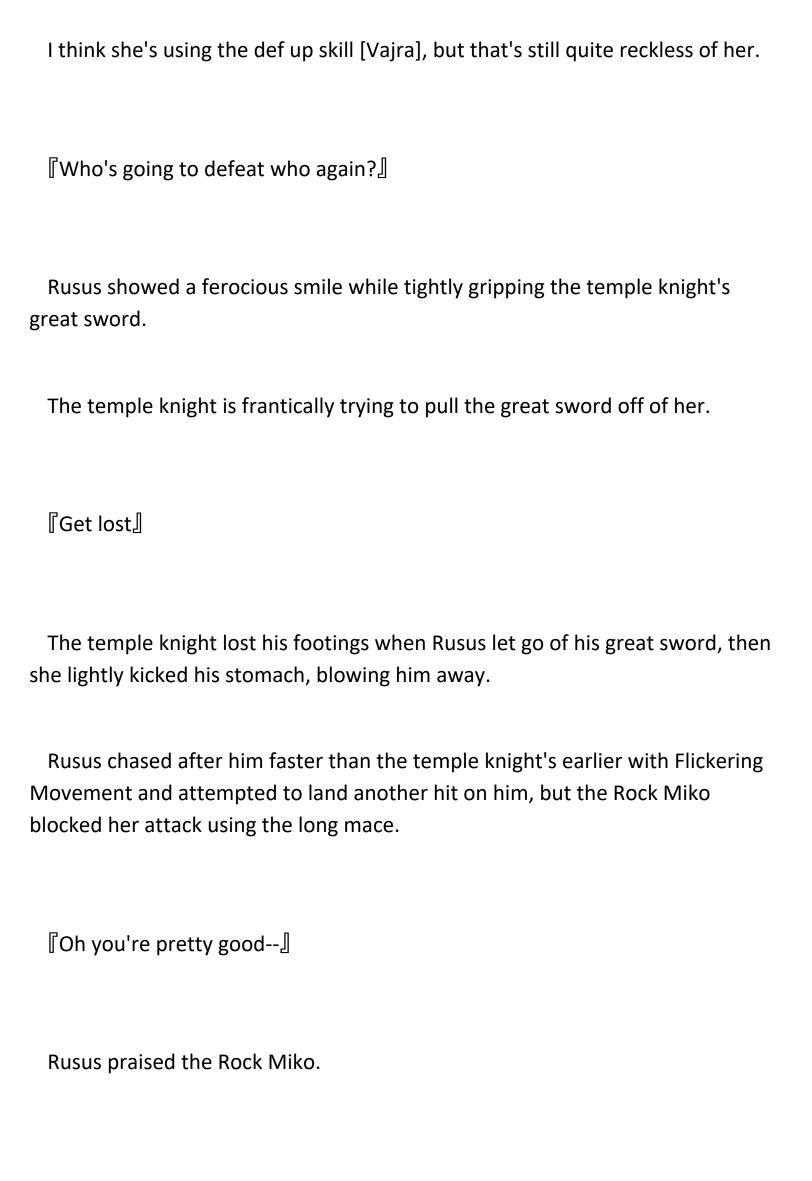




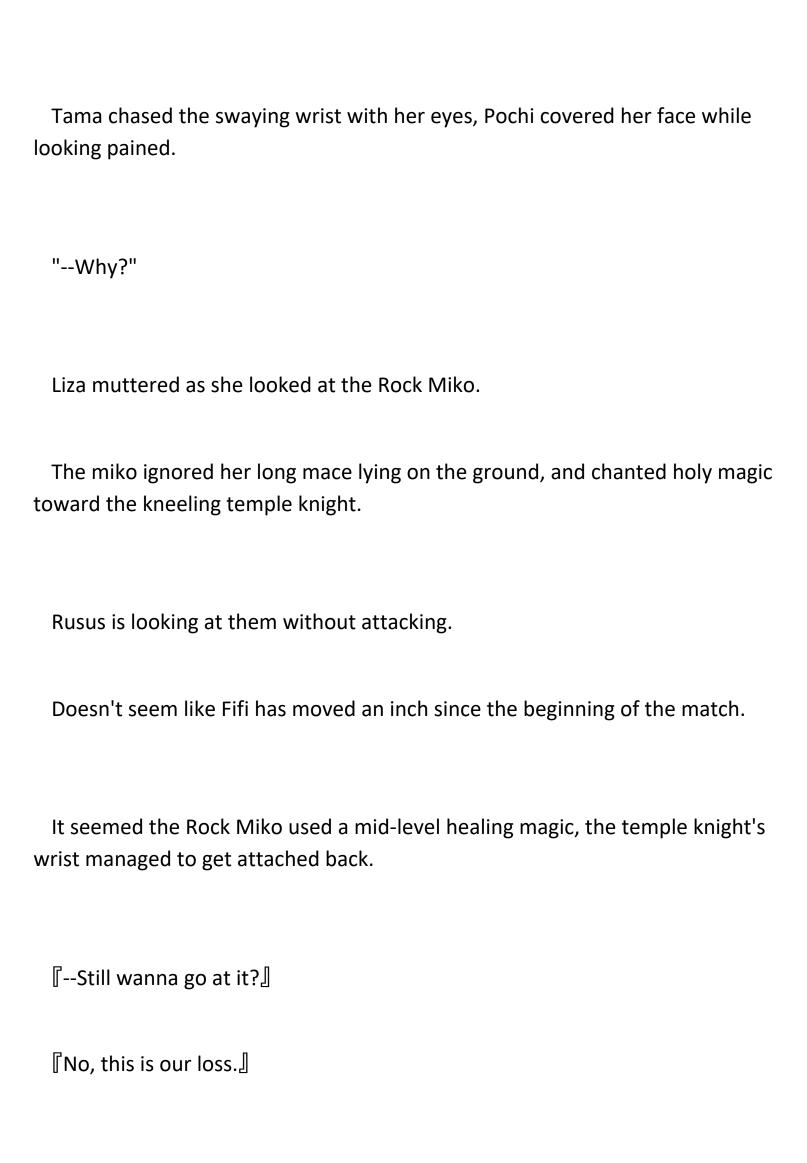








[--But still not good enough.] Rusus twisted her wrist and the Rock Miko's long mace got flung away from her hand. [wooooo!] The temple knight swings down his great sword toward Rusus, on a trajectory that would cut the Rock Miko along with her. [At least you've got guts--] Rusus kicked away the Rock Miko to get her away from the great sword, then she lightly swung her sword, separating the great sword from the temple knight's hand. Looks like she cut the temple knight's wrist in that instant. "Purara~n?" "It's gonna fall off nanodesu."



The Rock Miko shook her head at Rusus's inquiry.

[Oy! I can still fight! I, holy warrior of Zaikuon, Senuma-sama--]

The temple knight was going to object the Rock Miko, but Fifi zeroed in on him in an instant with Flickering Movement and knocked him out in one hit.

"Now then, looks like the miko is done with the contest, let's go to the temple after greeting Rusus and Fifi. Tama, and Pochi, wanna see them?"

"Aye!"

"Yes nanodesu!"

The other semifinal was [Force Warriors of Urion] vs [Magic Warriors of Karion], but since it didn't seem like it'd be interesting judging from their last match, we turned our back without any hesitation and went straight to the waiting room.

16-46. Trial of Zaikuon (1)

Satou here. People who cannot explain well aren't exactly unusual, but even though I could tolerate clients who expect you to take a guess from their abridged explanations, I really can't handle those who don't even understand themselves that they actually want you to do that.



"Rusus~"

"Fifi nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi opened the door and went inside in high spirits.

"Oh, ain't it the lil' girls from Satou's place!"

"Ou! You guys were here too huh!"

The former attendants of previous hero Hayato, Rusus and Fifi received the jumping Tama and Pochi while laughing.

I thought they wouldn't accept a visitation right after their match, but the two gladly did.

"It's nice to see you two again."

"Yo! Satou!"

"And spear ane-chan, you're here too!"

The two cheerfully stepped up to us while Pochi and Tama were hanging on their necks like Hawaiian leis. Pochi and Tama are frolic as they sway around while saying, "Buraa~n."

"You should have come out in the arena since you were already here and all." "We'd definitely have an even more fun match if you guys were fighting."

I sat down on the seat the two offered as they said something that didn't sound like a lip service.

Liza fetched the hanging Tama and Pochi, and they changed their forms to play corpses under Liza's arms.

"Cakes that Satou brought are really good as always."

"Bring us some meat the next time you're here ok. That karaage and kakuni

stuff you gave us back then were real nice."

While renewing old friendship with the two who had begun to heartily chomp down on the cake I brought, I tried asking them about the four heroes.

"We only know Meiko and Seigi though."

"Yuki and Hikutsu was it? Didn't Rin and Mary take care of the magician type guys?"

Looks like they don't even remember the explosive flame Hero Yuuki's and the discreet Hero Fuu's names.

"Meiko is fun, but she's got no stamina and drops down pretty quickly."

"Seigi is weak, but he can find monster nests real fast, so it's nice to take him along in a hunt."

Feels like the two have comparatively good opinions on Meiko and Seigi.

"Seigi kept looking at our breasts and butts though, that was funny."

"And then he immediately looked away every time we noticed."

...Seigi.

Ignoring the talk about a young man in puberty, I throw a question to Rusus and Fifi.

"So you weren't going to be Hero Meiko or Hero Seigi's attendants?" "Hmm, nah, nope."

"We're not even gonna last three days if we have to attend some haughty little girl and an ero brat."

"Right right. Meiko is haughty by nature, Seigi tends to say some incomprehensible stuff seriously then have this triumphant look on his face, I'd probably whack him before I noticed."

"They can be haughty all they want if they're as stupidly strong as Hayato was."

It seems like Rusus and Fifi will only abide by those who are stronger than them.

"We don't mind becoming your attendants if you win against us, Satou?" "Yep yep, mistresses or retainers are nice too."

"Ah yeah, the village chief told us to give birth or something."

Please drop that kind of talk.

"Well, let's talk more about that if you could \[\text{Win against us} \]."

"Yep yep, hold yer' horses till then."

"Well then, looks like I'd have to train harder with my sword."

I politely dealt with them and then return to the topic at hand.

"So instead of becoming their attendants, you two journeyed to the continent west?"

"Pretty much."

They must have found high-ranking nobles who tried to persistently court them into becoming their subordinates annoying.

"Oh yeah-Satou, do you know about vampires?"

"Yes, I've had a fight with one once, so I know a bit about them."

Even while feeling surprised at the sudden turn of topics, I nodded while recalling the vampire princess Semeri that I fought and the reincarnated true ancestor Ban on Selbira's Labyrinth Lower Layer.

"Those guys showed up at the neighboring country y'see."

"It was amazing ya know? It was an army of Blood Stalkers and Vampire Slaves led by Vampires, with enough rank to consume a city whole."

"Well, they were no match for us, but their leader, a Vampire Lord was pretty tough."

"Great~?"

"That's super amazing nodesu! Pochi wants to fight one too!"

Hearing Rusus and Fifi's stories, Tama and Pochi stood up on the sofa with sparkling eyes.

And of course, it ended up with Liza scolding them and them quickly shifting into the reflection pose.

"Where did those vampires come from?"

"I mean it's far away from the Bloodsucking Labyrinth, they were probs monster who were hiding in a nearby monster domain or something?"

Apparently the two only took care of the vampires, and didn't know what happened afterward.

"That was when a patrolling monster-hunting warship from Saga Empire passed above us, so we left all the clean-up to them."

I feel that's quite a convenient coincidence, but there was probably an oracle if it was a city-destroying disaster, it wouldn't be strange if they were deployed for relief.

According to Rusus, about seven Saga Empire warships are patrolling around the neighborhood of the small countries on the continental west, it's not that rare for them to receive an SOS signal and come to the rescue.

"But with that many vampires appearing, wouldn't that deal a huge blow on that country?"

"Yep, exactly. The royal capital was half destroyed, and about two towns were annihilated."

"Apparently, some refugee even flowed to this country too."

That's quite a huge damage.

"Oh don't make that face."

"Yep yep. Saga Empire has dispatched their relief unit to that country, they should be distributing food and stuff right about now."

If there's already relief groups helping them, I suppose I don't have to stick my nose into it?

"More importantly-"

Rusus and Fifi, who perceived a serious aura coming from me, cheerfully changed the topic to about how we would have fought in the matches we watched.

"Rush up like fwoosh, then prick out like zubaban nodesu!"

"They ain't gonna let you come near them."

"No worries nanodesu! Pochi is quick on her feet nodesuyo!"

"Lurk around like nyunnyun, then nyururu~ headhunting nyan."

"Oh scary, headhunting's scary."

"Headhunting is the basic of ninja~?"

Everyone seems to be having fun with the new topic.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

『─It's all your fault!』

The harmonious atmosphere was destroyed by a shout from outside the room.

Looks like some people are quarrellings in the passage.

Tama and Pochi look up at me anxiously, thus I pat their heads.

According to Map info, they seem to be the [Holy Warriors of Zaikuon] Rusus and Fifi beat earlier.

From what I can gather from the coming voices, the temple knight Senuma is unilaterally disparaging his mike partner.

"I'll give them a bit of warning."

Please at least pick the place if you want to quarrel.

Those parion women won because you surrendered!

The voice of a man assaulted my ears the moment I opened the door.

Apparently this guy completely shelved the fact that he was the reason for her surrender.

[I am the [Holy Warrior of Zaikuon], who could even be considered as God's Apostle! Yet I have to taste defeat at the hands of mere attendants of hero, all because of you!]

At the passage, in the nearest corner, I found the miko who fits the words [Man among Men] and [Rock], and a handsome young man overflowing with the aura of small fry.

Even while I was walking toward them, the hysteric voice continued to verbally abuse the rock miko's poor healing magic and her muscular body.

"You're bothering the neighborhood, could you please leave it at that?" "Who the hell are you?"

The temple knight seemed to be offended by my warning, he trotted toward me and attempted to grab my neck with his hand.

Then he revolved once in the air.

"Shrike Drop"?"

At the opposite direction of Tama who struck her signature pose below me, the temple knight had fainted after hitting his head on the concrete, still with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

I think that move earlier was Air Throw instead of Shrike Drop, but now's not the time to point out such a trivial stuff.

"Se-Senuma!"

The rock miko looks after the temple knight with a worried expression. Even though she had just been excessively disparaged, her figure nursing the temple knight is overflowing with affection.

"What's this, ain't you the Zaikuon guys from earlier."

Rusus and Fifi who were looking here from the room's door came. Along with Liza and Pochi of course.

"Hey, I think you'd better learn how to choose a man."

"Yep yep, a man is not about his face. But his strength."

Rusus and Fifi gave their advices to the rock miko.

For some reason, below them, Tama and Pochi are making an appeal by striking the bodybuilder poses from the arena earlier with their soft squishy bodies, cute.

"I-It's not like I yearn for Senuma-dono's.... It's just, we were raised together like siblings since we were little so..."

"Ooh, childhood friends eh, nice."

"So like, he's been protecting you since childhood?"

"No, it's me who's..."

While grinning wide, Rusus and Fifi listen attentively to the rock miko who's blushing like a maiden.

It appears that these two like to talk about love story too.

The rock miko's love story continued on until after a priest from the main temple came looking for her.



<#update1>

"-There sure is a lot of homeless people here."

"Yes. Many of them also look exhausted."

I caught sights of lots of dirtyish people sitting in back alleys and under overhang roofs on our way to the main temple with the priest and the rock miko.

They must be the refuges that came from the neighboring country that Rusus and Fifi mentioned.

"Does the temple not do anything to help the refuges?"

"Oh, of course we do. We offer food and places to protect from rains and winds to believers of God Zaikuon who do labor service."

The priest affirmed my question.

Looks like it's exclusive to their believers after all.

"Unfortunately, Zaikuon Temple cannot afford to give aid indiscriminately free of charge."

"Until God Zaikuon has regained his powers, we too are on the side of those who hang on the goodwill of countries and people..."

Rock miko and the priest told me that.

I'll give lots of foodstuff-related donations to Zaikuon Main Temple and every other temple once the trial is over.

We arrived at Zaikuon Main Temple while I was considering that.

This building must have been a solemn building originally, but due to deteriorations and cracks here and there, it kinda looks shabby somehow.

"It's of grave importance to mend this temple, but we cannot possibly work on it for the time being."

The priest seemingly noticed my line of sight as he said that in frustration. The fact that he continues to have faith despite in this situation where they cannot use holy magic due to the demise of their god, is a proof of his devotion. I'm glad he hasn't been warped like the chubby priest at Seryuu City.

『−O God. God whom we revere.』

The rock miko who's changed into miko outfit progresses the ceremony. The miko outfit surprisingly fits the muscular rock miko.

Responding to the rock miko's call, a bright yellow light came down from the heavens.

The novelty has worn off since this is my fifth ceremony already.

The miko's stern face turned loose.

She's entered the trance state.

[Ye foolish one who dares to challenge my trial.]

Inorganic voice of a man echoed in my mind.

This seems to be God Zaikuon's voice.

『
-Fight.
』

Whom should I fight?

Don't tell me, do I have to fight God Zaikuon himself?

Judging from Arisa's fight with him, it's not like he can't be beaten, but I'd feel sorry for the reincarnated person Kei who was also a fake apostle of God Zaikuon if he died again, so I'd like to avoid it if possible.

<#update2>

-Oops.

There's a filter to prevent my thoughts from leaking out through the mind magic [Mind Connection Advance] I'm using right now, but the other party is still a god.

There's no guarantee that the filter won't be broken through, I should stop with disrespectful thoughts.

[That is not a bad idea, however—]

The scenery before my eyes changed while he was going to say my opponent.

-White space.

It looks similar to the World of Miniature Garden that Goblin Princess Yuika created in the labyrinth's lower layer.

Looking at my Map, I'm met with [Map Does not Exist in this Space] indication.

[Reign victorious over three fights.]

God Zaikuon's voice disappeared after telling me that.

Thud, I turned around hearing that sound and saw that the rock mike had fallen down on the white ground.

For now, I take out a bed from Storage through Item Box and let her rest on it.

Now then, wonder how should I fight?

16-47. Trial of Zaikuon (2)

* 16-46 has been slightly revised. There is no problem even if you don't read it, but do have a look if you're curious.

<TLN: Previous Chapter has been updated with the revision. Search through the updated parts by searching '#update' keyword on your browser.>

Satou here. Games these days are designed with user friendliness in mind, but I feel that lots of games in the olden days didn't have good tutorials. It's fun to do trial and error, but it kinda feels like lots of those games simply couldn't be bothered to explain stuff.

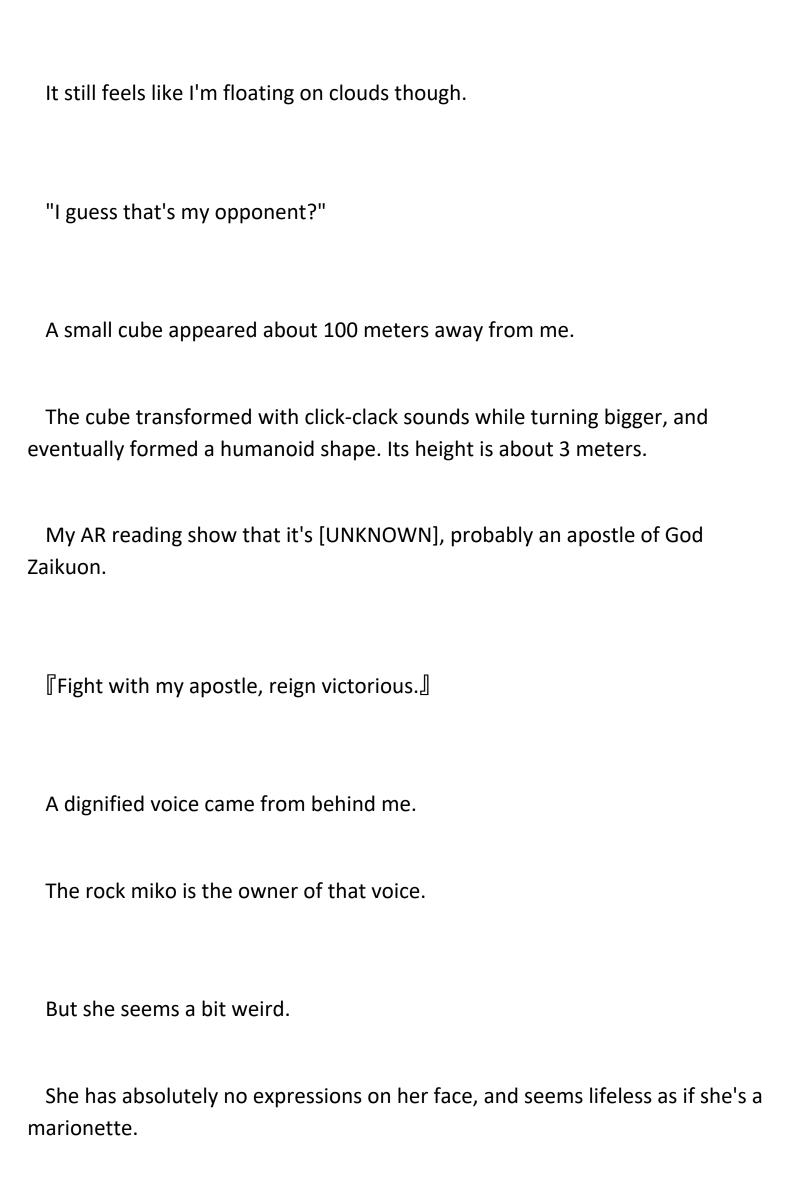


"--Oh."

In the white space where I was taken to by God Zaikuon, a halo around my circumference, and then it turned into a black line the moment it touched the ground.

It's a circle of around 500 meters in diameter.

Along with that, the white space has become dimly colored, it's possible to distinguish the ground and the ceiling now.



According to AR reading, she's in [Divine Possession] state.

It seems to be the next stage of the trance state she was in during the ceremony.

[What would the winning conditions be?]

[Defeat apostle. Go out of circle not. Deliberately attack mike not.]

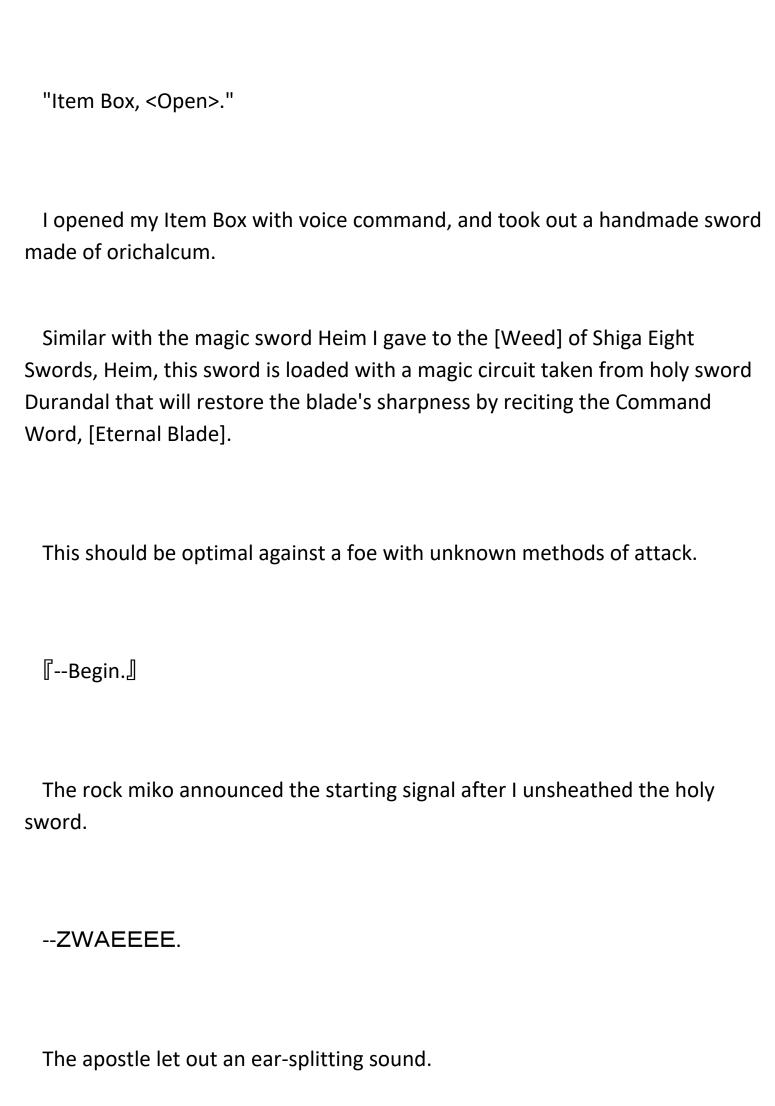
After saying that, the rock miko is wrapped in a light sphere that emits yellow phosphorescence, and floats away to outside the circle.

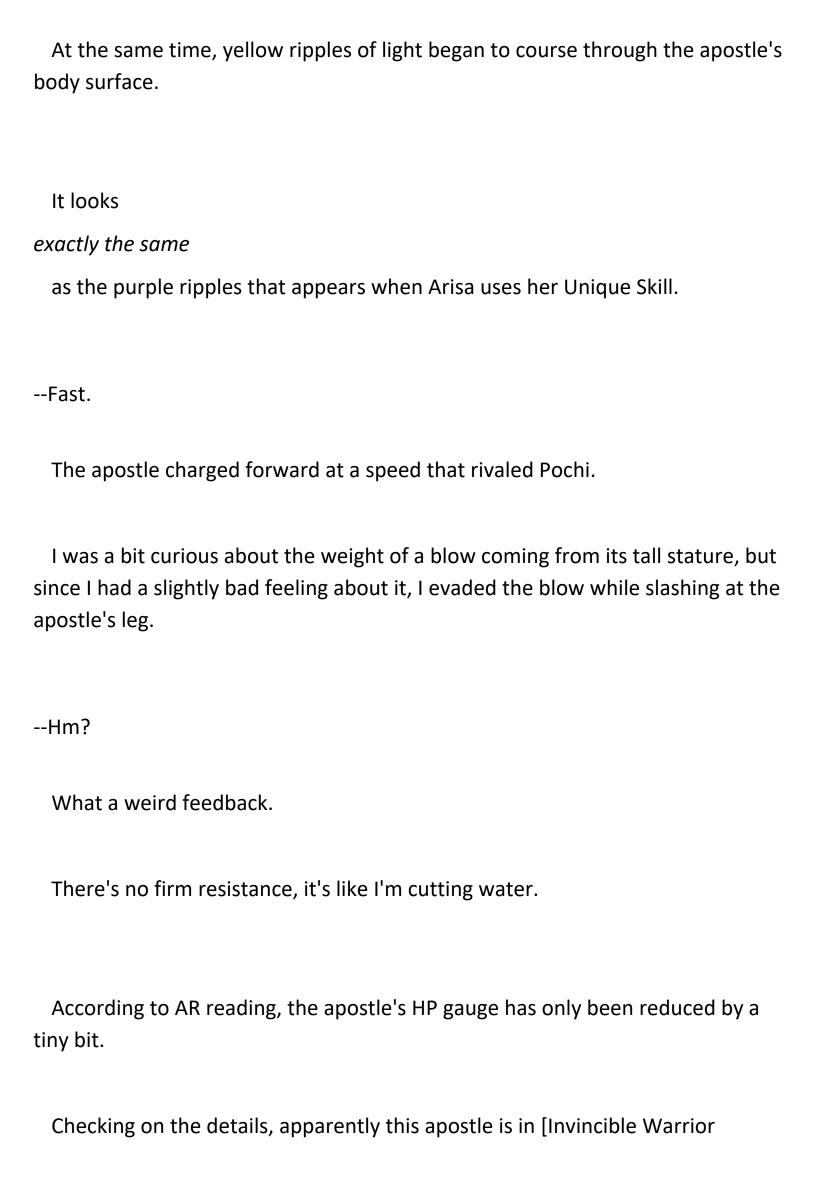
While my eyes were chasing her, my ear picked click-clack sound.

Apparently the sound was coming from a cube that separated away from the apostle's hand and transformed into a halberd-like shape.

This apostle prefers close quarter combats it seems.

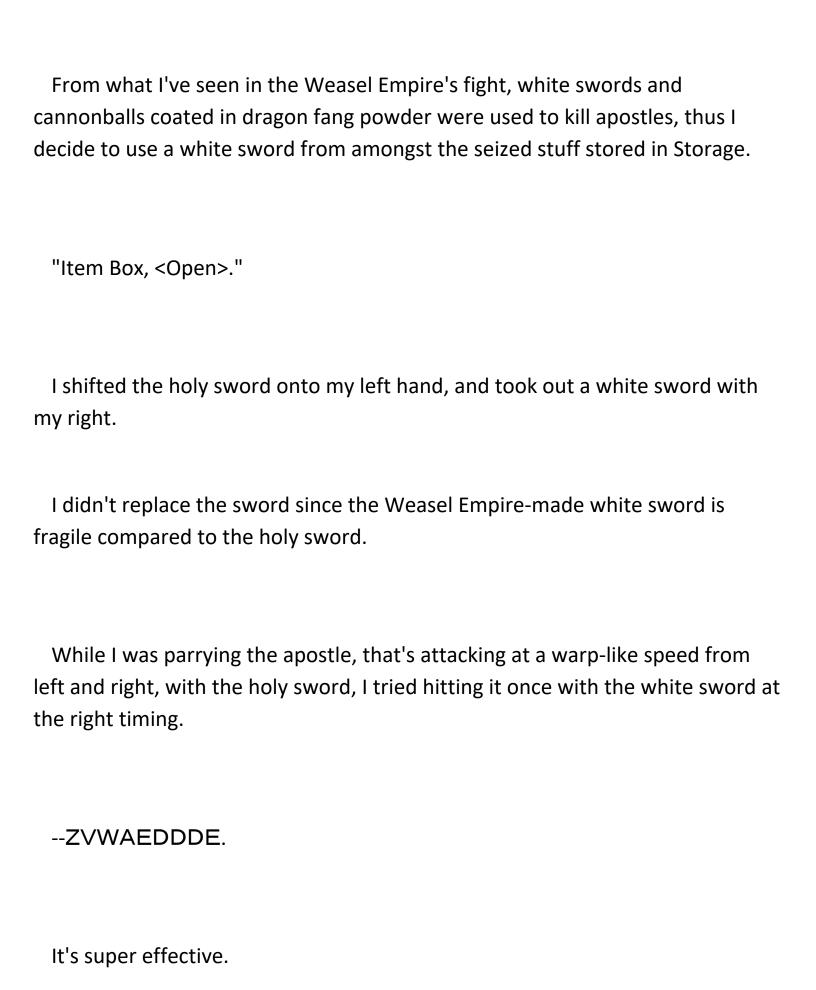
I could have ended this instantly by instantaneously casting the space magic forbidden spell [Mythology Down] from my magic list, but since that would likely incur displeasures instead applauses, I held myself back.



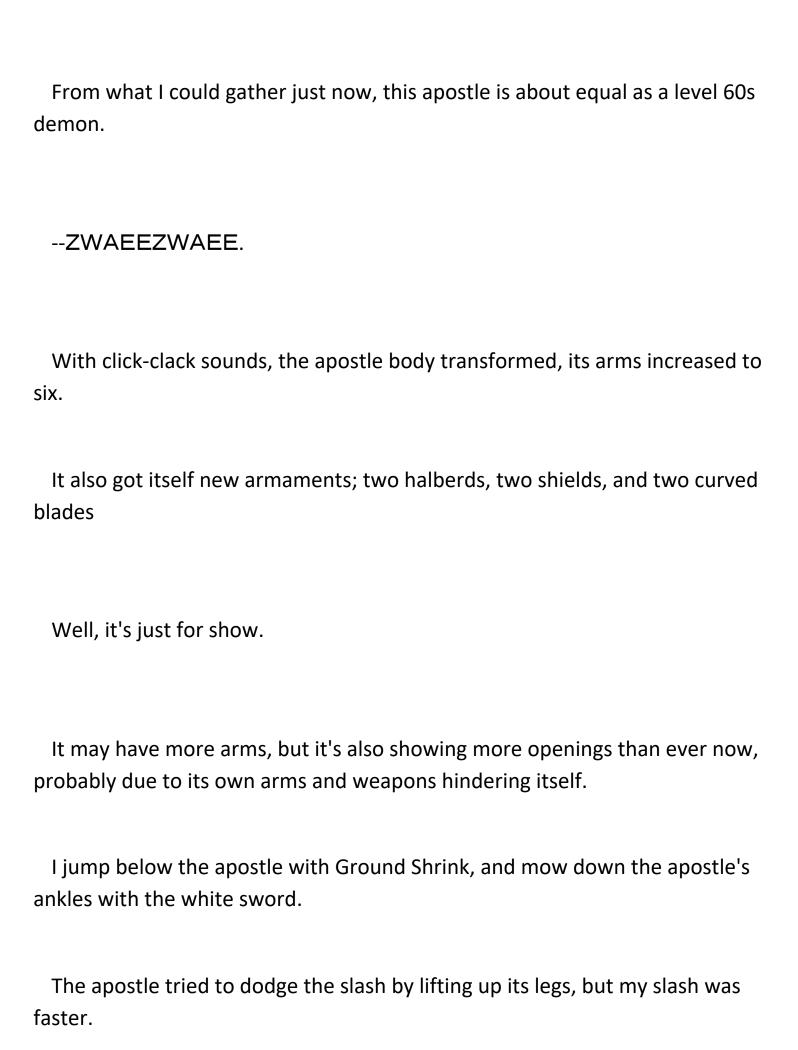


(Champion)] State. Looks like I could still see its State and gauges even though I couldn't see level and skills. "--Whoops." I jumped away to dodge a stab from behind. A rapid thrust that made the halberd looked like it was multiplying occurred there. Since the halberd could seemingly be dealt with by the holy sword, unlike the apostle itself, I was able to thoroughly parry it. The halberd's speed rivals that of Liza and Pochi, while its thrusting speed toward my openings rivals that of Tama, it's relatively tough to handle. This apostle is obviously stronger than the apostles that fought against the Weasel Empire's palace knights. The Unique Skill-like [Champion] State probably has boosted up this apostle's strength. I thought my attacks would work when my opponent was in the middle of

attacking, but they barely dealt any damage on the apostle.



One hit reduced the apostle's HP gauge by a third.



The apostle who had lost its ankles tried to stab me with its halberd and squashed me down with its shield together, but I went around it and stopped at its blind spot with Ground Shrink, then I stab the apostle's knee with the white sword.

The apostle's HP gauge is almost zero, but I can't deal any more damage even after slashing it many more times.

--ZWAEEZWAEE.

The apostle shouted out loud, and then a yellow phosphorous flickered before its HP completely restored.

Well, I get that recovery is a specialty of holy magic, but this is still a bit annoying.

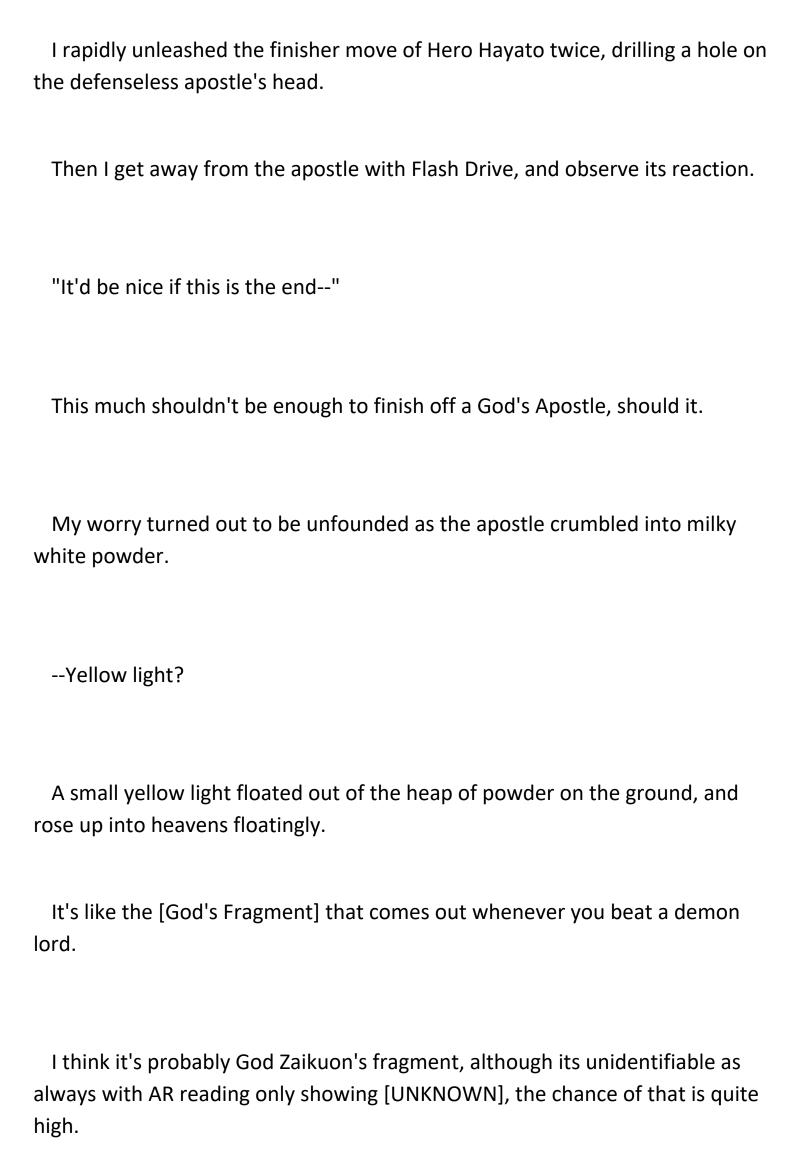
Most importantly, the white sword would broke if this kept up.

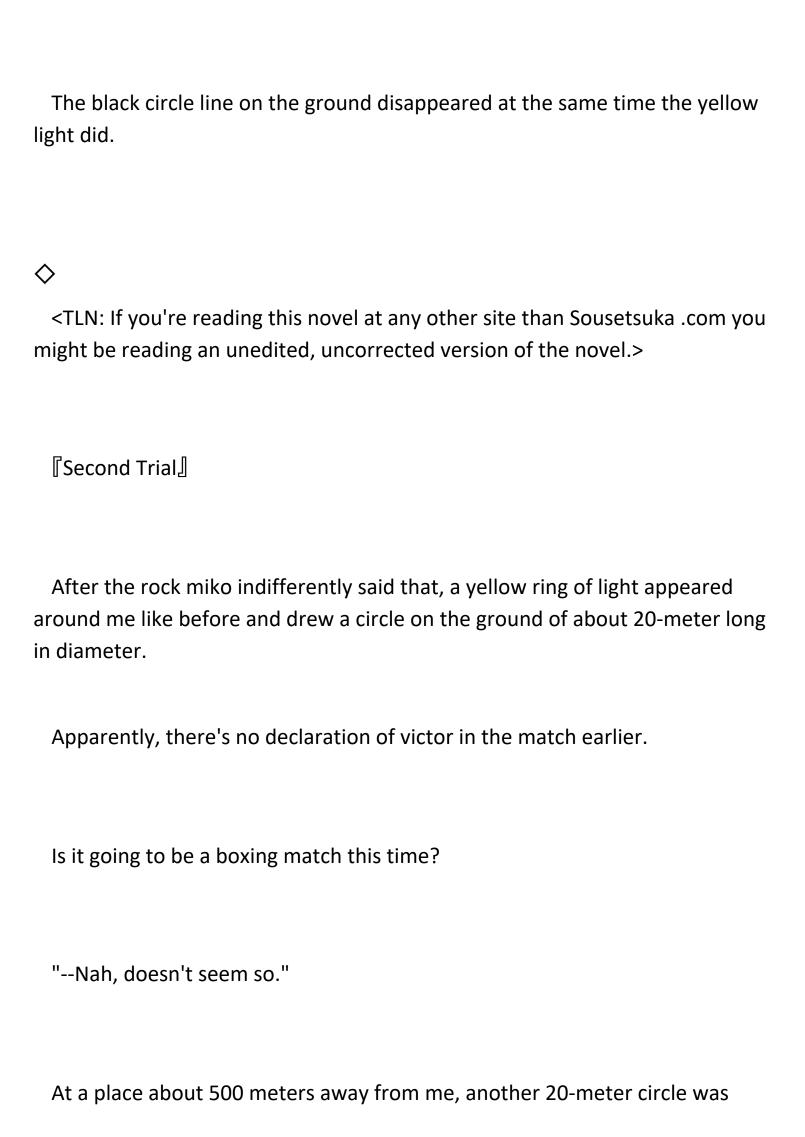
I'd prefer to preserve the dragon fang swords I have in my storage as much as possible.

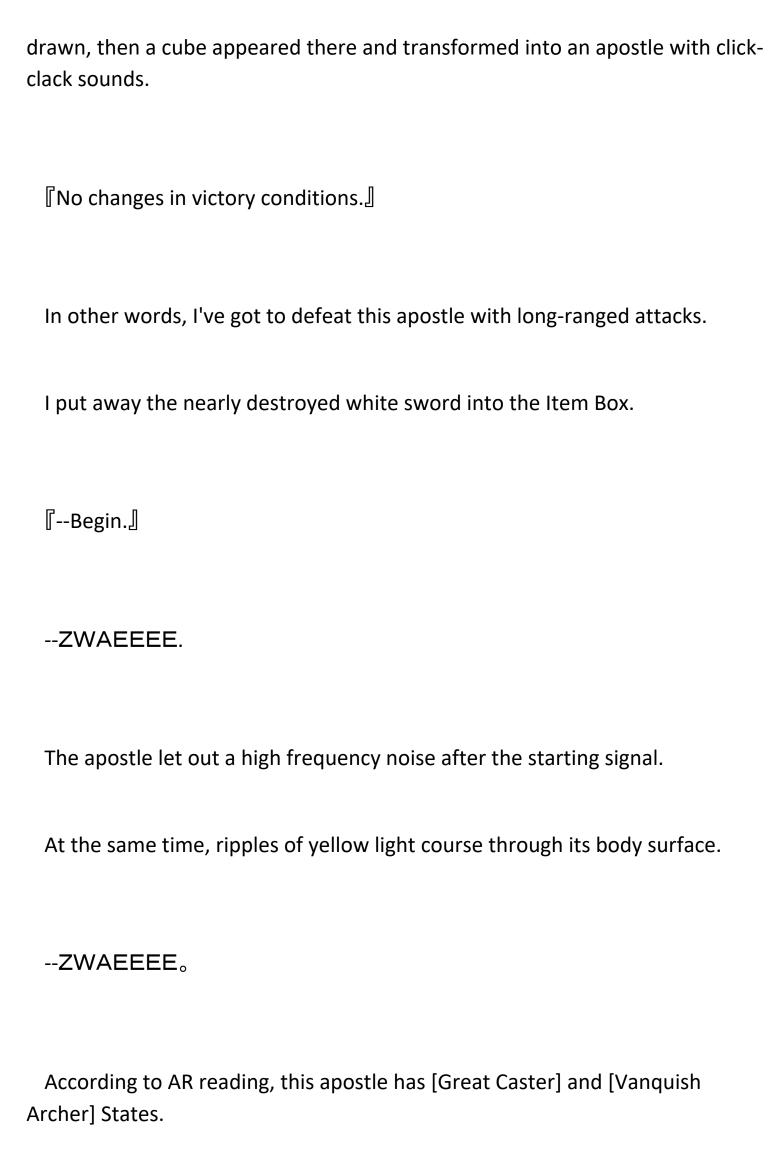
"Now then--."

I stare at the apostle.

Apparently, I've got to land a hit at the critical spot to beat this apostle.
I ponder the spots that would likely be the apostle's weakness while dodging its attacks.
Normally you'd have thought it should be its head or heart, but things can't be that simple considering it's a god's apostle.
There must be some kind of requirements like having to strike both at the same time or something.
"Trial and error it is."
I used Sky Drive to balance out the disadvantages in height, and disarmed the apostle by relying on weapon destruction skill and weapon deprivation (Disarm) skill.
The defenseless chest of the apostle is exposed before me.
Spiral Flash Thrust.







As a test, I took out a Light Crystal Gun from Item Box and shot with i	it.

The laser that was shot out of the Light Crystal Gun penetrated the apostle's body, but it didn't deal any damage.

A shot from this gun has about the same firepower as one shot of my light magic [Laser], it appears ordinary magic can't hope to damage apostles.

--ZWAEEEE.

As if returning the favor, the apostle shot out an arrow from its arm that had transformed into a bow.

Using the holy sword, I flick off the arrow that was flying at a speed invisible to the naked eyes.

That was quite a weighty blow.

"...Orichalcum arrows huh?"

Not to the point that would numb my hand, but it could chip the holy sword if I don't hit it at the right angle.

While dealing the second and third arrows with the sword, I took out an emerald green long wand--a wand made from World Tree Emerald Branch from Item Box.

"■■■..."

I begin to

chant a spell

while parrying the rain of arrows the apostle rapidly shot out.

--ZWAEEEE.

Though I don't think it was mimicking me, the apostle raised its wandtransformed arm high up, and began to draw a real dangerous looking magic circle.

Of course, it hasn't loosened up on the rain of arrows.

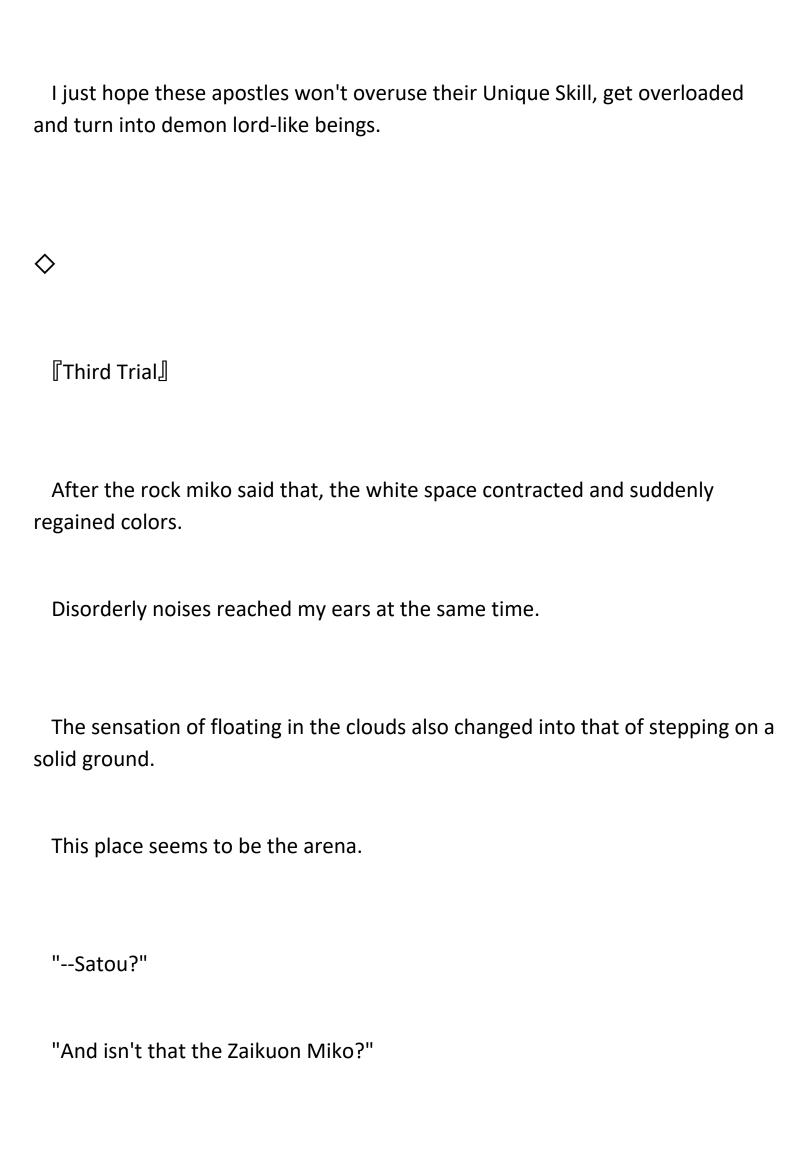
I'm not one to talk, but this guy sure is handy.

The magic circle is clad in flashes of yellow, which begins to gradually intensifies.
The apostle finished its chant far faster than me, and then the completed magic circle shot out a white beam.
Fortress Defense (Fortress).
I make use of the defensive item, a standard equipment for Pendragon Team, reserved for emergency and block the beam.
Intense sparks scattered on the outer layer of the Fortress's defensive field.
The pseudo-material made from Force Magic turned cloudy, crumbling down at an awful rate.
Fortress is a defensive system made of multiple layers of defensive walls, so another defensive wall would reinforce it before the entire thing collapsed, it eventually managed to endure the apostle's magic attack.

--ZWAEEEE.



is at, mowing it down.
The thunderous booming sounds and heat followed after the flash, hitting my eardrum and skin.
My vision that quickly recovered thanks to Light-Intensity Adjustment skill showed black smoke and melted red-brownish ground that spread far and away.
No apostle is in sight. Looks like it was disintegrated by the forbidden spell.
Even the Log displays [Defeated Zaikuon Apostle], there's no doubt about it.
Of course the rock miko is safe.
"Just as I thought."
Two yellow light orbs appeared slightly away from where the apostle was at, and disappeared floatingly toward heavens.
These yellow lights must really be [God Zaikuon's Fragments].



I turned around toward the voices to see Rusus and Fifi.

Unconscious [Magic Warriors of Karion] are laying below them.

Looks like we've showed up at the conclusion of the tournament's final match.

Don't tell me I've got to beat these girls for the last fight?

16-48. Trial of Zaikuon (3)

Satou here. I think everyone, regardless of who, has cravings, big or small, for limelight and recognition. That in itself is important as motivation to keep moving forward, but when such a craving is swelled up so big one could only be satisfied by comparing oneself to others, I think that's where it gets dangerous.



"How'd you show up out of nowhere, space magic?"

"And why's miko-chan floating over there?"

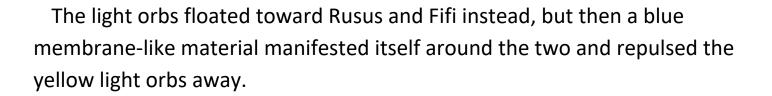
Attendants of Hero Hayato, Rusus and Fifi threw me those questions. Instead of looking puzzled to see me and the rock miko suddenly appearing in the arena, the two seemed very calm as expected of these two veterans. [Emerge triumphant in the fight, accomplish the trial] god Zaikuon spoke so through the rock miko who was still floating in the air. At the same time, a black line was drawn on the edge of the arena. "So then, are you going to fight us?" "That's nice~. I was just feeling a little lacking with the fight earlier. We're ready anytime if it's a fight you want, Satou?"

They crack their fists, looking really pleased.

Rusus and Fifi smiled ferociously.

I don't mind fighting these two, but I still can't grasp what god Zaikuon is thinking, having me fight the two apostles that were powerful though imperfect earlier.





That was probably the divine protection of God Parion or something.

"O God! Our great God! Your servant, Holy Warrior Senuma is right over here!"

After the personnels in charge of the arena carried away the [Magic Warriors of Karion], the Zaikuon temple knight rushed into the arena.

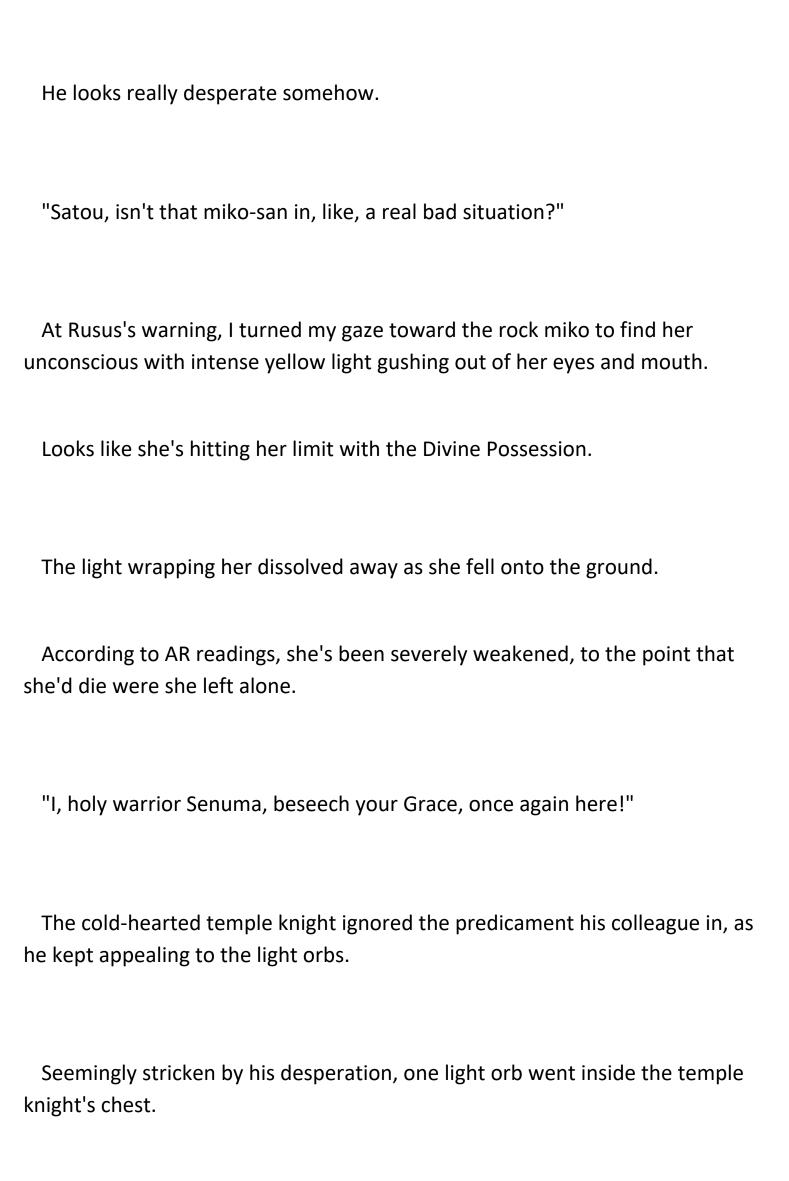
The officials tried to go after him, but they were halted by a transparent wall that appeared around the arena.

Looks like the arena has been isolated by god Zaikuon.

The light orbs floated toward the temple knight and then began to orbit around him as if assessing him.

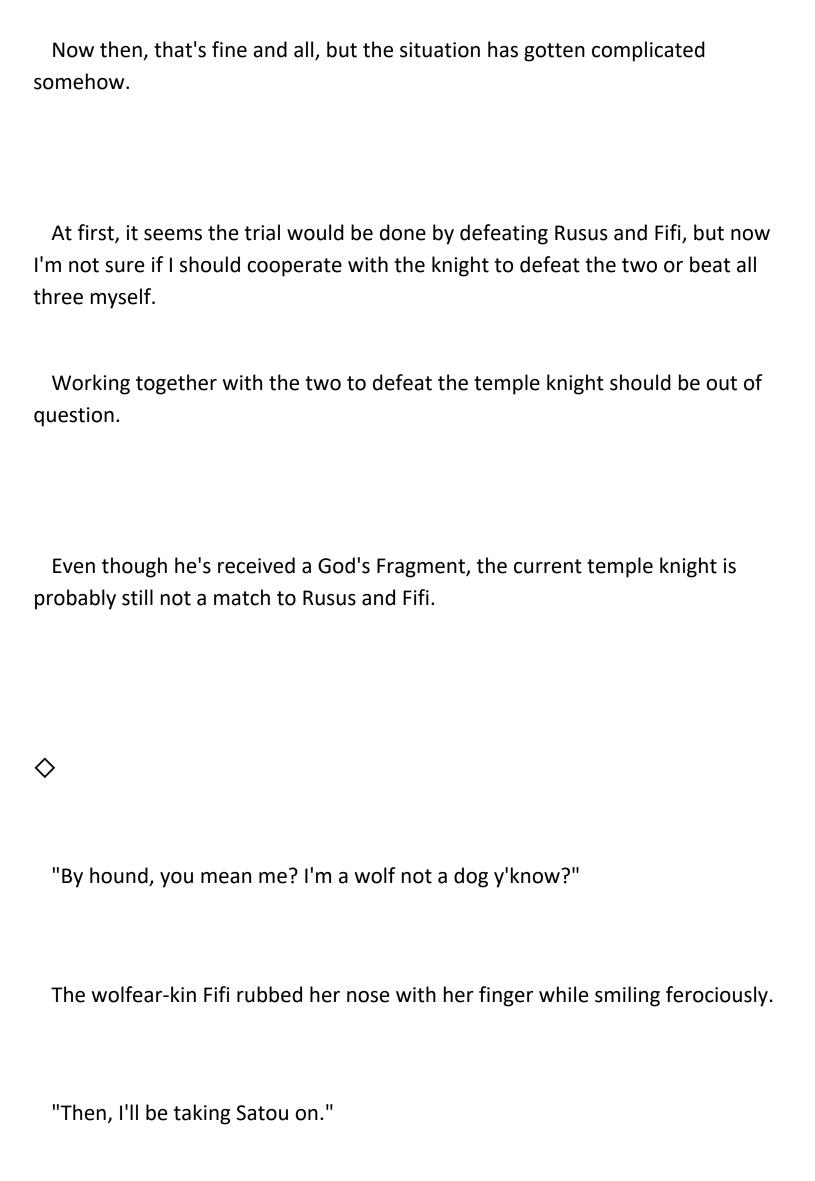
"By the Grace of great god Zaikuon, I shall slay the hounds of Parion and make known the great name of Zaikuon to all!"

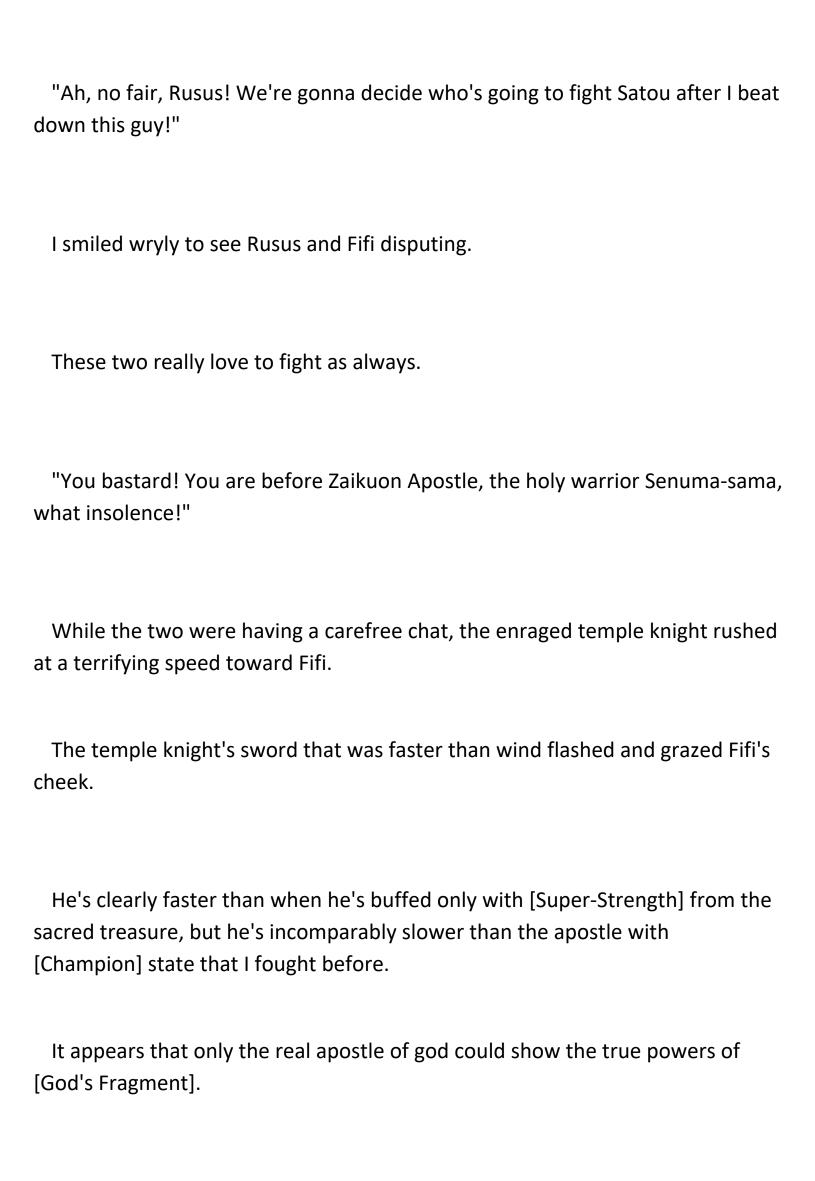
The temple knight appealed at the light orbs orbiting around him.



AR reading tells me that the Temple Knight has acquired the Unique Skill, [Invincible Warrior (Champion)].
His level has increased from 30 to 45, probably cause he got a God's Fragment.
"Ooooooh! My body is overflowing with powers! God powers of such majesty! No one can stand in my way now!"
Looks like he's intoxicated by feelings of omnipotence from the God's Fragment.
"Here I come, you Parion hounds! Prepare yourselves!"
Yellow light is flickering around the temple knight's body.
According to AR readings, his State is now [Champion] and [Super-Strength].
The former was Unique Skill, the latter is probably from god Zaikuon's sacred

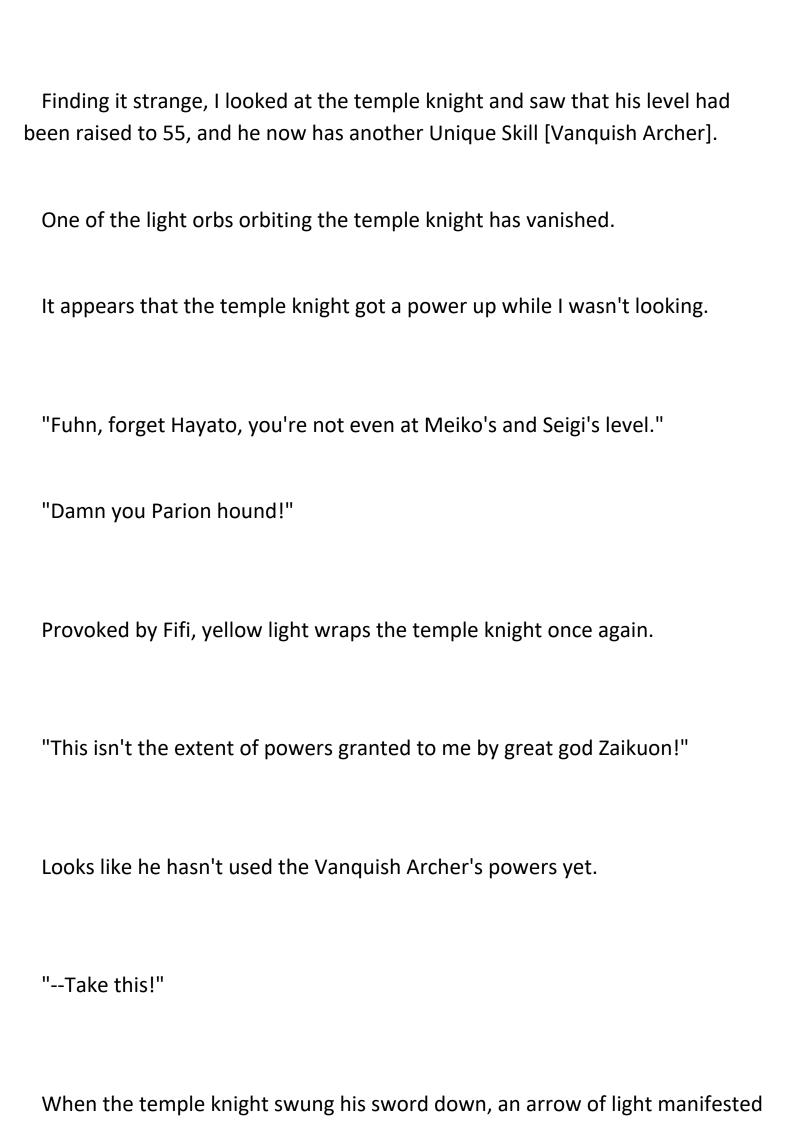
treasure.

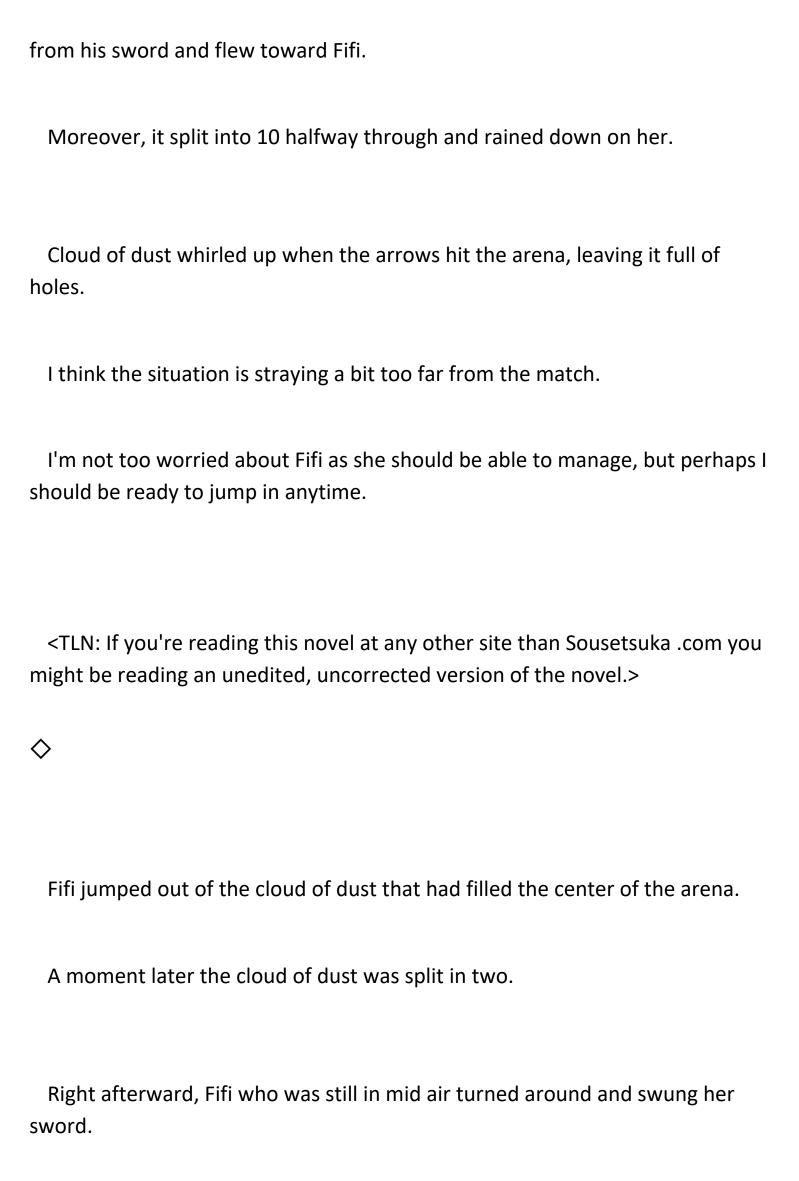


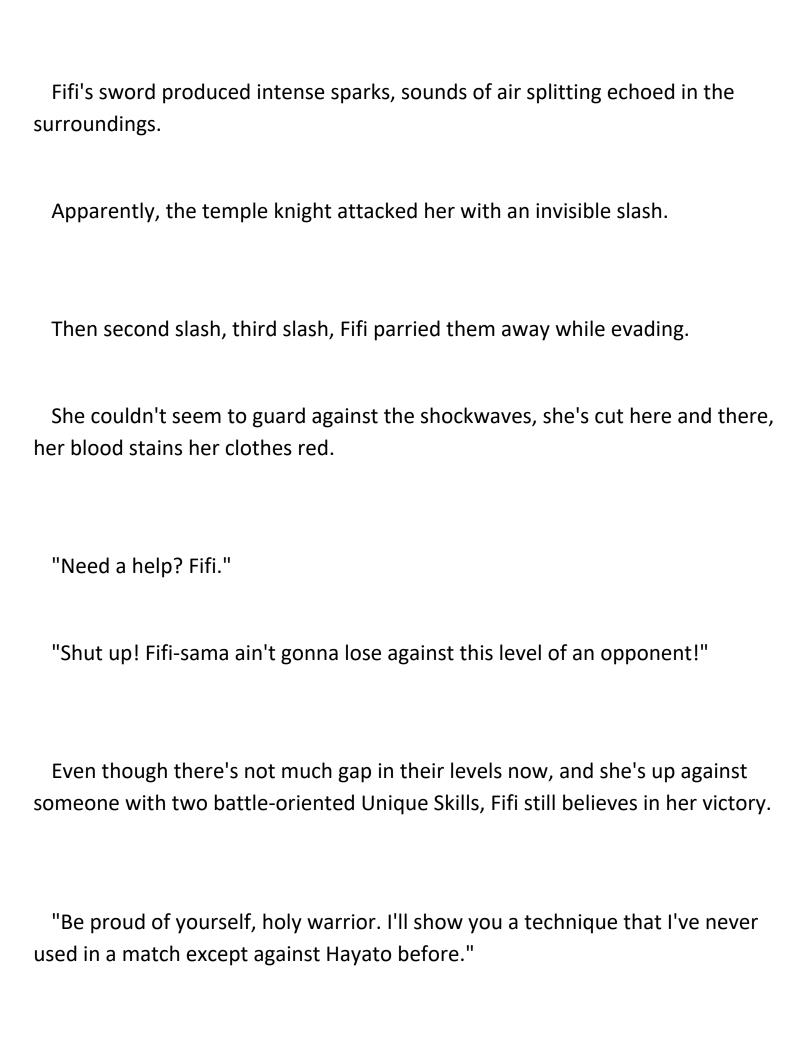










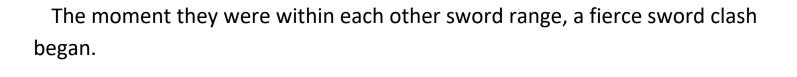


Fifi provoked the temple knight while calmly sorting out her breathing.

Like saying, she's confident that her technique will bring her victory.
"Come at me, Parion hound. Witness as your little tricks stood powerless before holy warrior Senuma-sama who have received the Grace of god Zaikuon!"
The temple knight arrogantly jerked up his chin.
"O original blood that flows within me. O blood vessel of the divine wolf. Together with rekindled ancient memories"
Light dwells in Fifi's blue eyes.
Feels like this chant gonna revive my lost history of chuunibyou.
I think it's a type of autosuggestion used to access the skill.
" <beast form="">"</beast>

Steam-like white aura rises up from Fifi's body, her canine teeth are transforming into fangs. Along with that, the white aura wraps around Fifi like fur, making her look like a werewolf. According to AR readings, this aura has a support effect of adding five times her stats into her status. In exchange, her stamina and MP gauges are decreasing at an awful rate. This is probably a big reason why she didn't use the technique while fighting against demon lords. "UORYAAAAAAA!" "NUOOOOOOO!" Fifi is closing in while swiftly evading the incoming light arrows shot by the temple knight. The invisible slashes that came assaulting during her rush were all punched

down by the silver aura-clad Fifi.



The slashes that Fifi parried crushed the arena, while the shockwaves from Fifi's attacks the temple knight blocked blew cloud of dust.

"Uwaa, that looks so fun~"

Rusus looks like she's truly envious as she watches Fifi and the temple knight who are scattering colorful sparks around and letting out heavy sounds.

It's scary since she said that while looking here, but there's something that's piqued my interest more.

I saw yellow light ripples running through the temple knight's body during this battle.

I'm not sure whether Unique Skills from god Zaikuon are the same as Unique Skills that reincarnated people like Arisa have, but I don't think you could get away willy nilly using powers beyond what human could wield.

"Eat this!"

Fifi unleashed a powerful move on the temple knight while shouting out loud.

I missed it a bit, but apparently she hit him with her finisher right when the temple knight lost his footings by her rapid assault.

The temple knight's barrier was broken down by the direct hit, blowing off his helmet.

 \Diamond

"Ooh, did she beat him?"

Rusus shouted out loud when she saw the temple knight laying on the arena's ground.

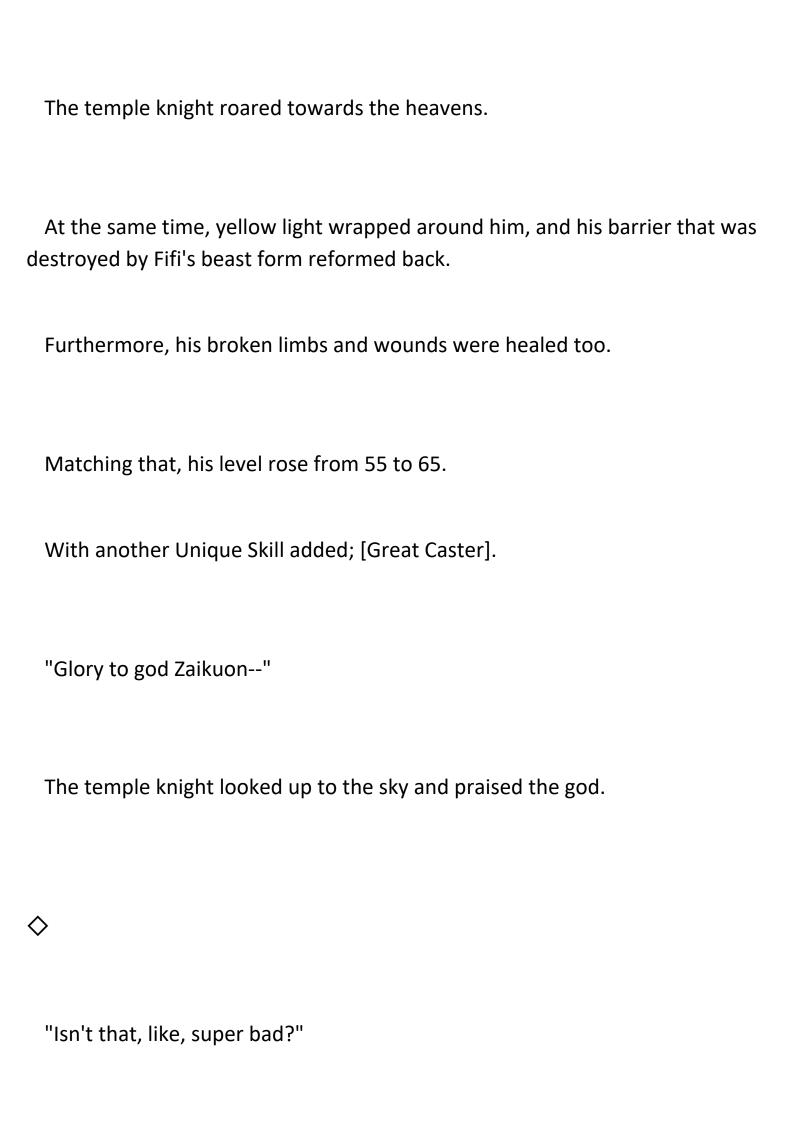
Fifi who's just unleashed her finisher is also wounded with bone fractures and blood all over her body, yet she still keeps her stance without letting her guard down.

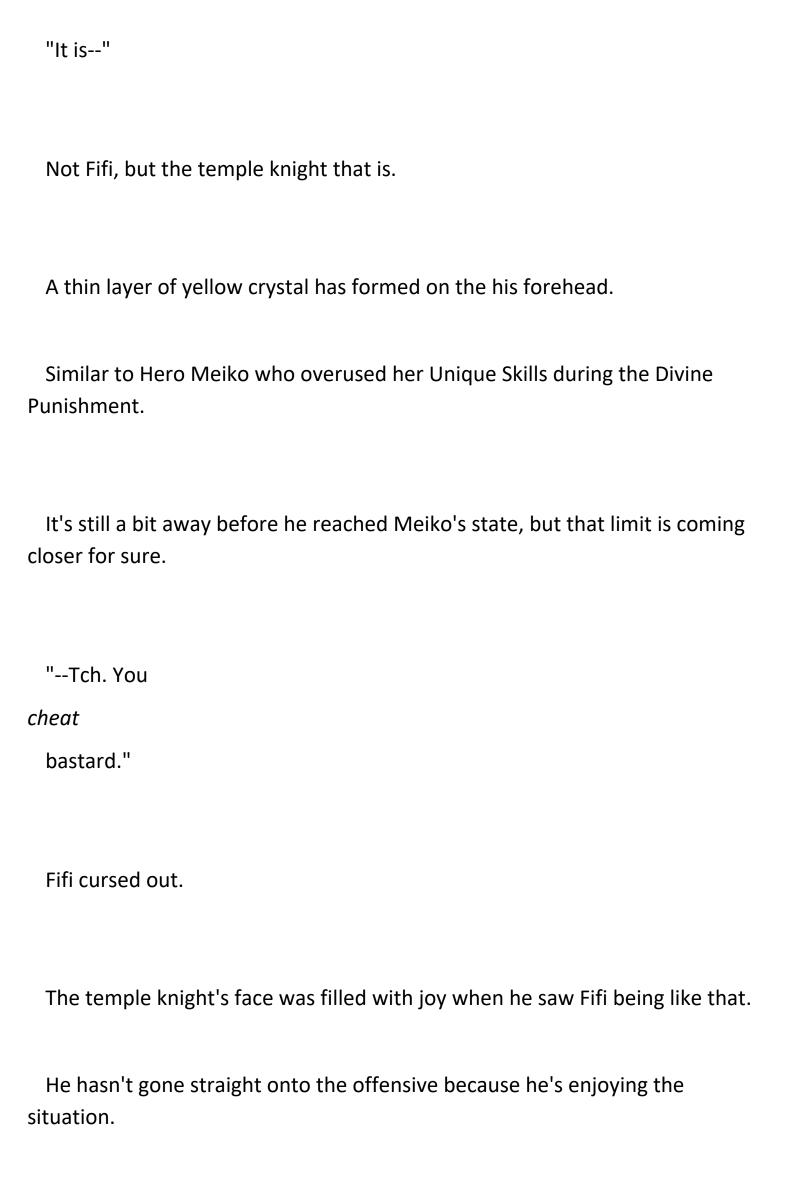
Apparently, she's exhausted up all her stamina, she's no longer in Beast Form.

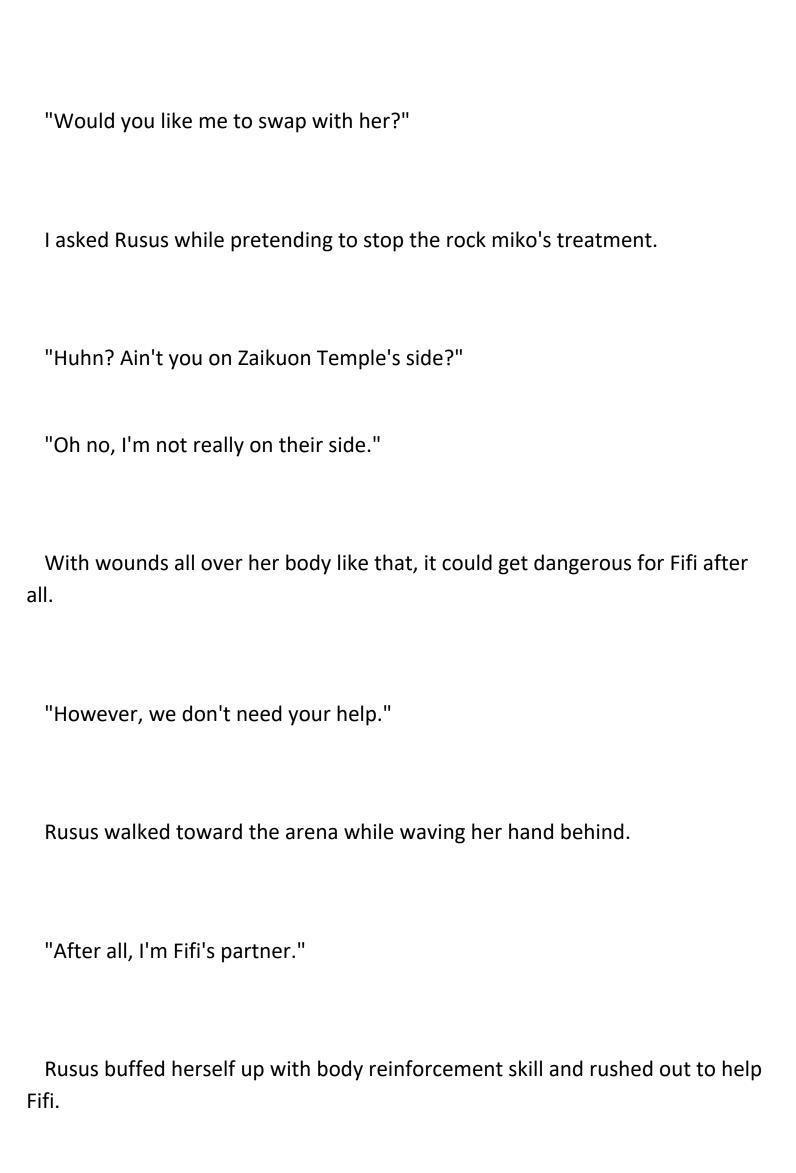
[&]quot;--Oh boy, you're pretty tough."

The temple knight rose up while supporting his body with his sword. It seems the bones in his right arm and left leg are fractured. Fifi smiled fiercely and beckoned at the temple knight with her hand as if provoking him. "Gununu--" The temple knight had his gaze swim all over the place restlessly before it caught on the last light orb orbiting around him. "O god Zaikuon... Grant your grace upon this holy warrior Senuma who befits your apostle!!" The temple knight's hand clad in yellow light caught the light orb. As the orb was struggling to get away in his hand, he put it into his mouth and gulped it down.

"--NUOOOOOOOOO!!"







The level gap should be bigger than their fight against demon lords, yet the	Е
two were able to somehow hold their ground by cooperating together.	

However, that probably will only last until they've exhausted up their stamina in a few minutes.

I'd like to respect their warrior spirits, but I probably should get ready to cut in anytime.

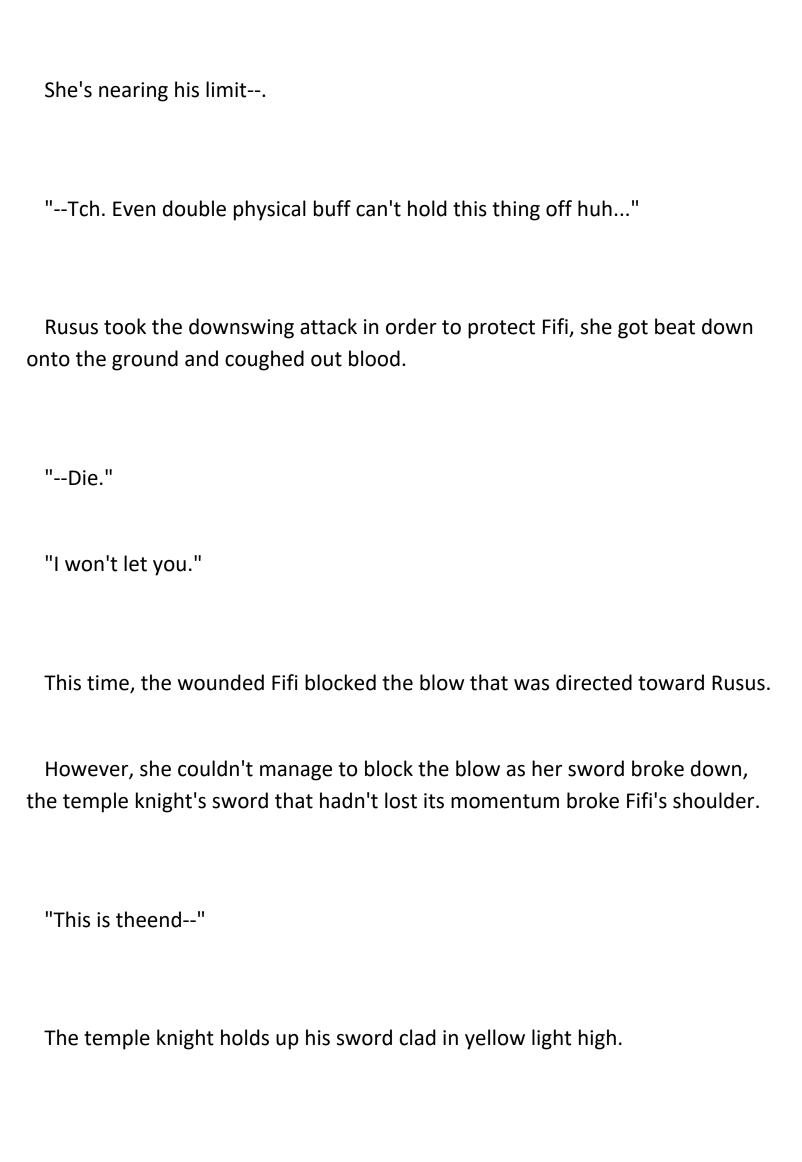
"--Gwaaa"

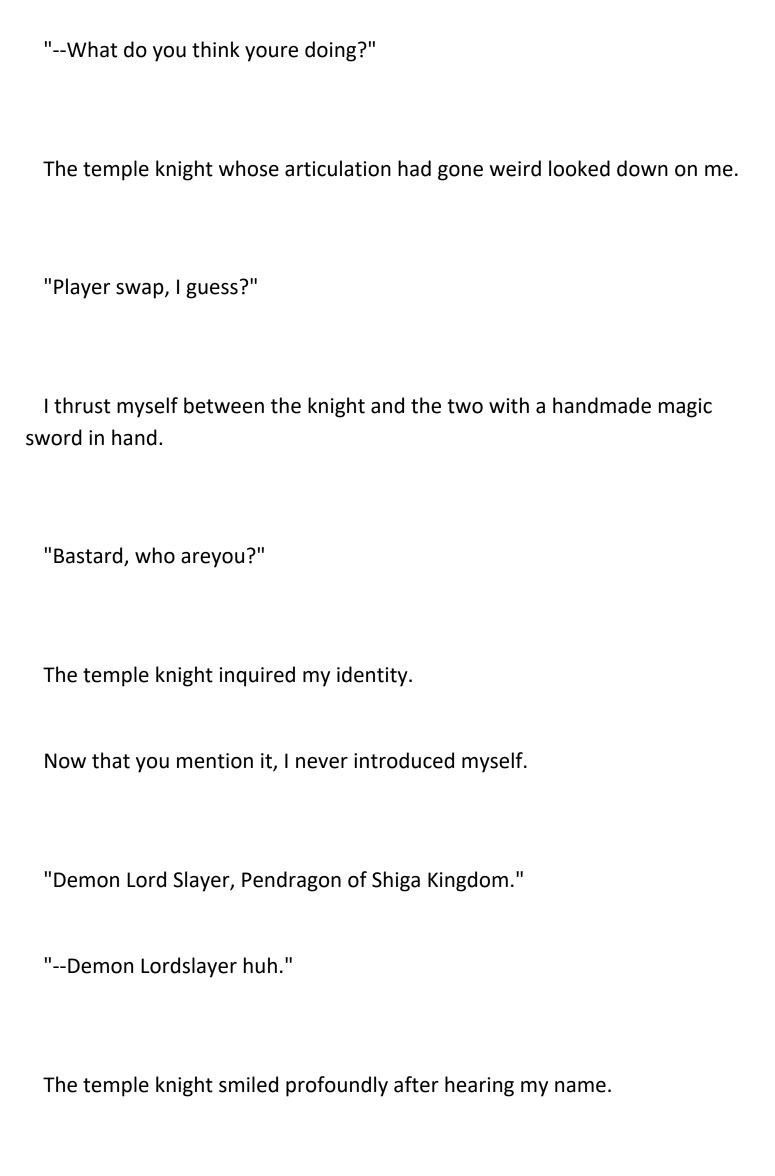
"Fifi!"

Fifi who couldn't block the temple knight's sword got blown away.

Rusus begins to cross swords with the knight, but she's clearly at disadvantage with her partner not present.

Nevertheless she's still able to stand her ground against the temple knight's fierce attack, but she's fighting an opponent that has leveled up beyond her level through God's Fragments, and is buffed with Unique Skills, holy magic and the divine treasure's [Super-Strength].





"I couldn't hope for a betteropponent."

16-49. Trial of Zaikuon (4)

Satou here. Pure love that bloomed in your youth often come out as foolish, but rather than those who sarcastically make a fool out of it, those who tread upon the path of love following their heart look more wonderful to me.

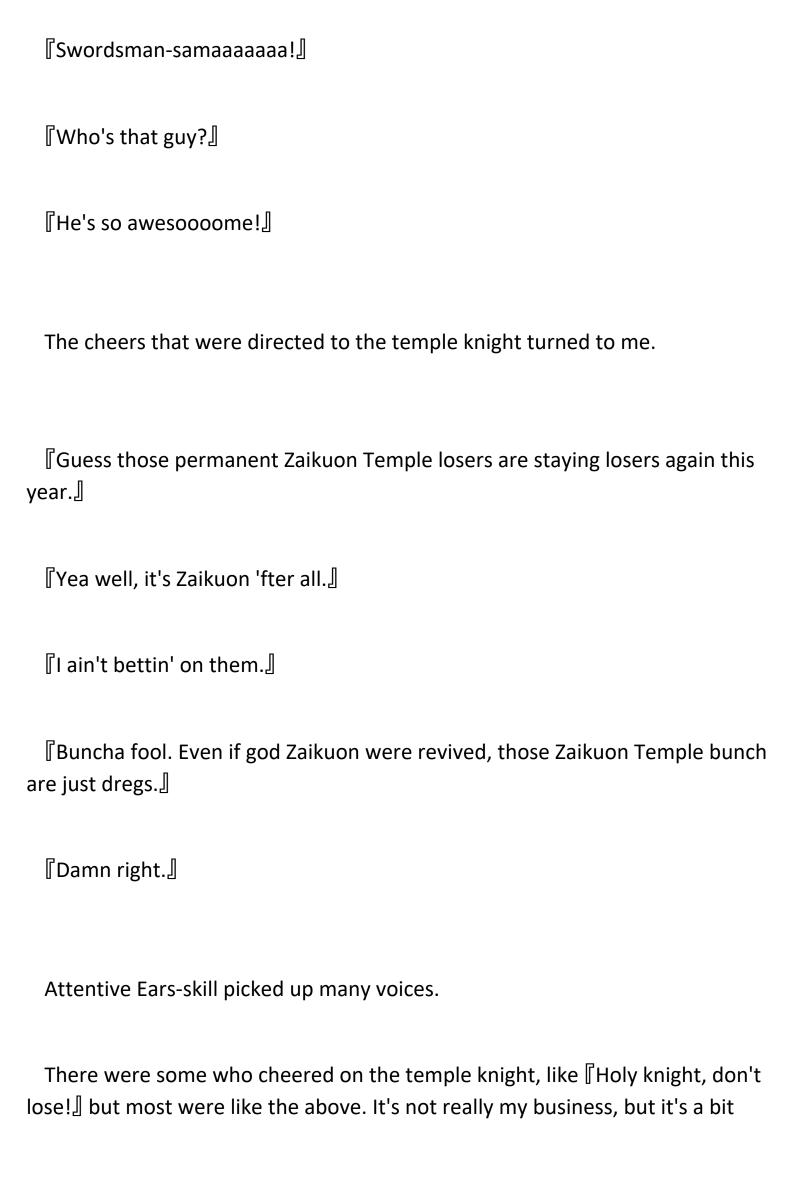


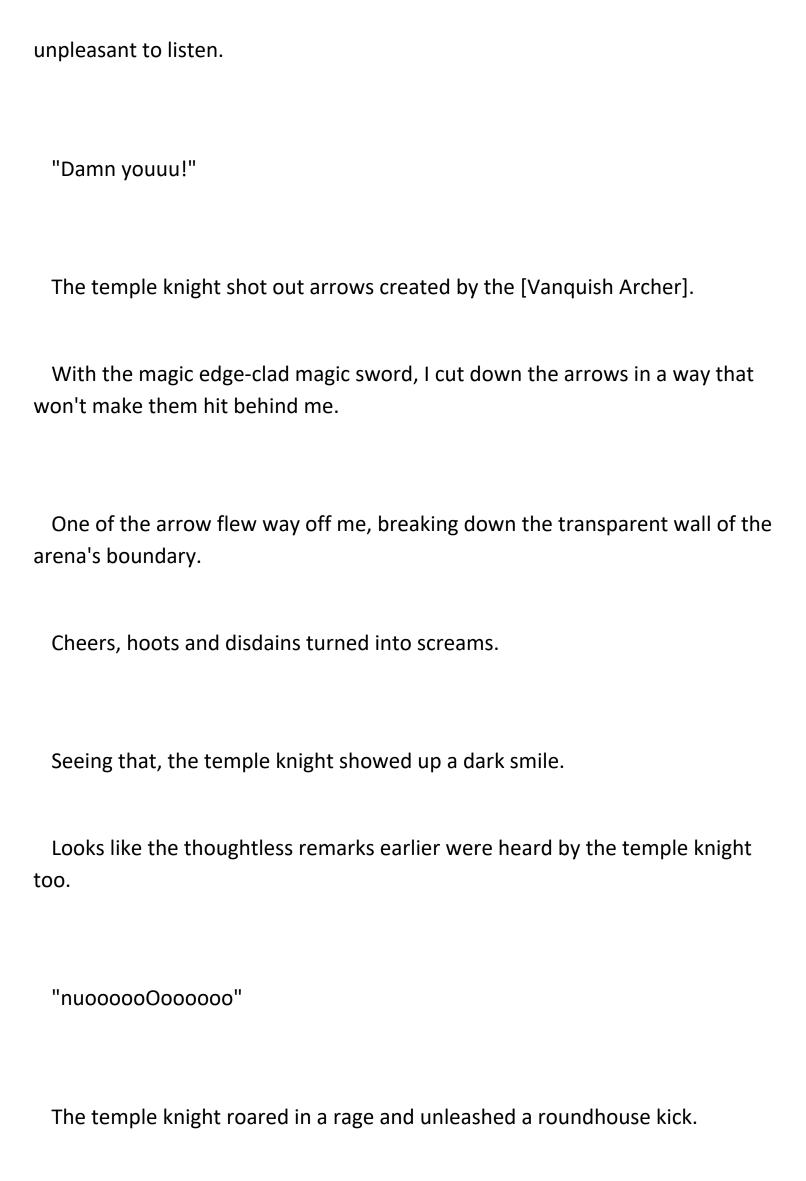
"--guNZUnu"

I tried to slash him with my sword, but it felt like when I fought the first closequarter combat apostle earlier.

The weight and speed of his blows are higher than Liza and the girls, but since he's lacking the battle sense, our vanguards wouldn't have much trouble going against him.

Demon lords at the level of [Golden Wild Boar King] probably could easily crush him.





Since god Zaikuon isn't interfering anymore, I'd love to end this just about now, but judging from all the trials so far, lowering people's faith toward the god in question is not a good situation to be in for a trial.

I'll let the temple knight gain the upper hand during our fight, and then end it with either a draw or a narrow victory.

The temple knight's body and soul would not hold if I drag it on too long, let's do this quick.

And while I was thinking that--.

"Gununu--NuoooOoooooO"

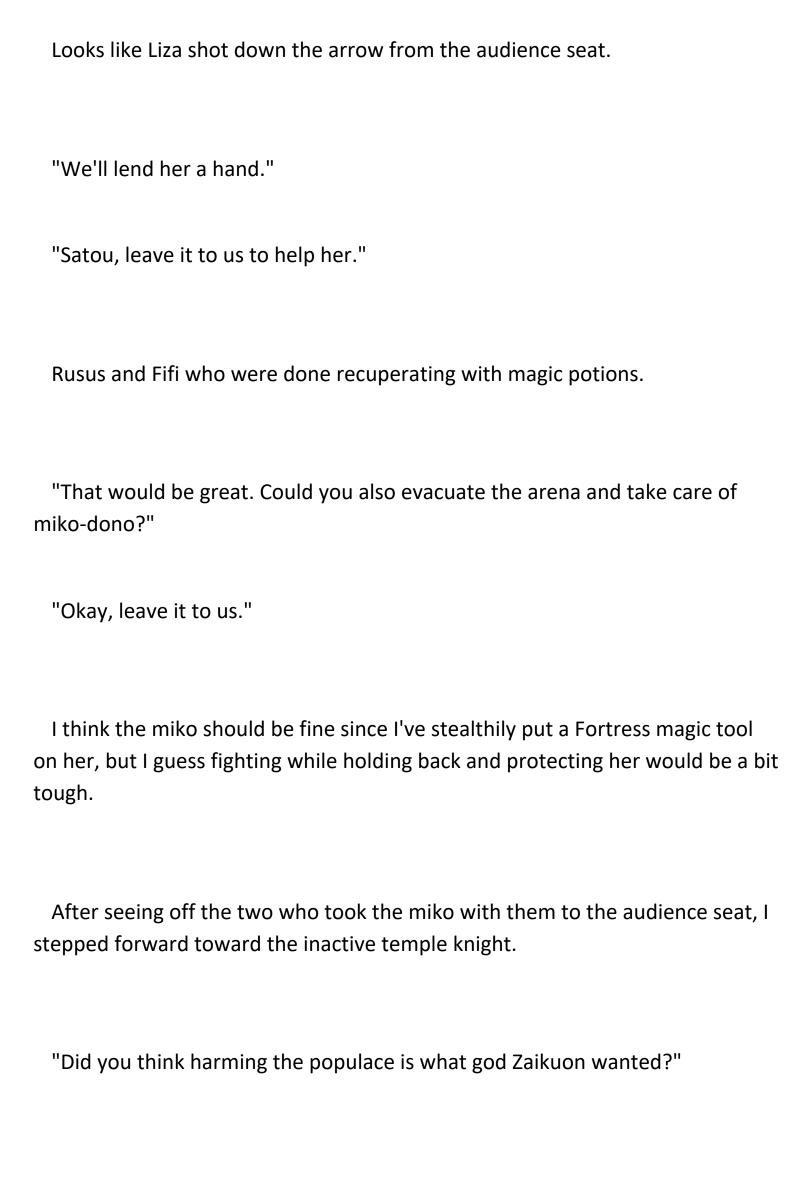
The temple knight roared up toward heavens.

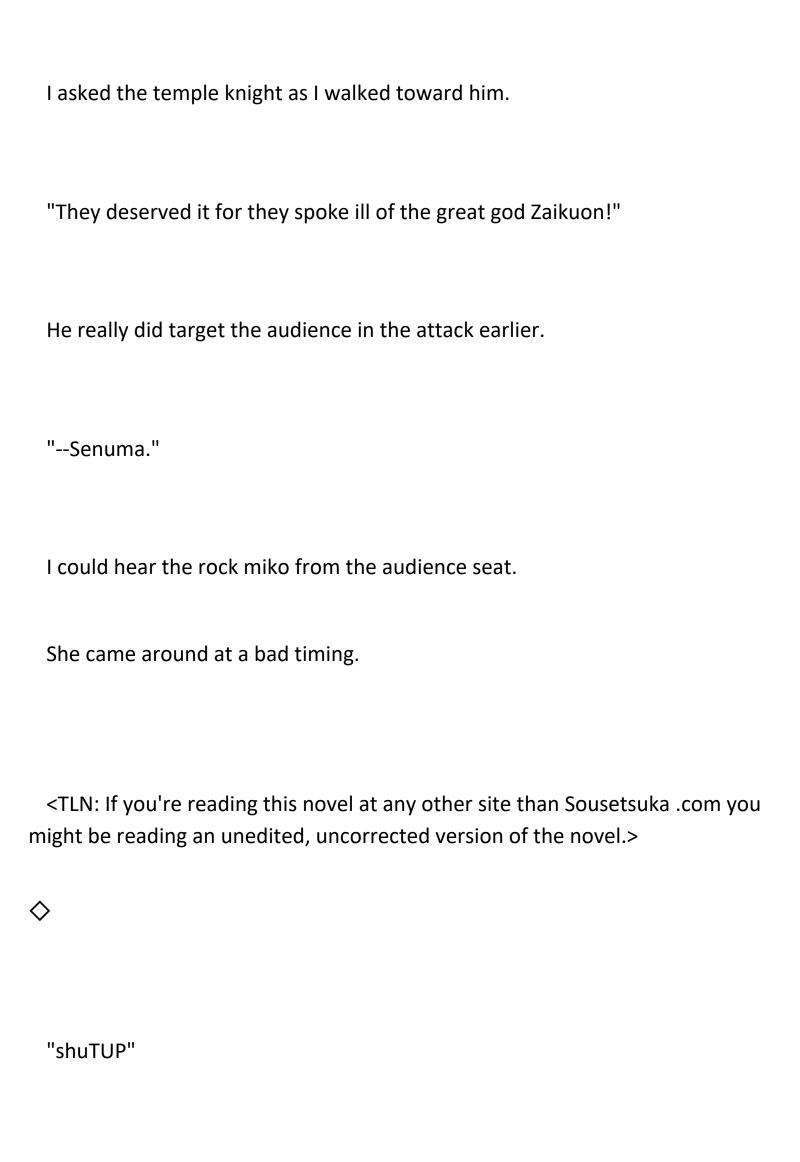
Numerous arrows of light that look like hedgehog's needles appear around him.

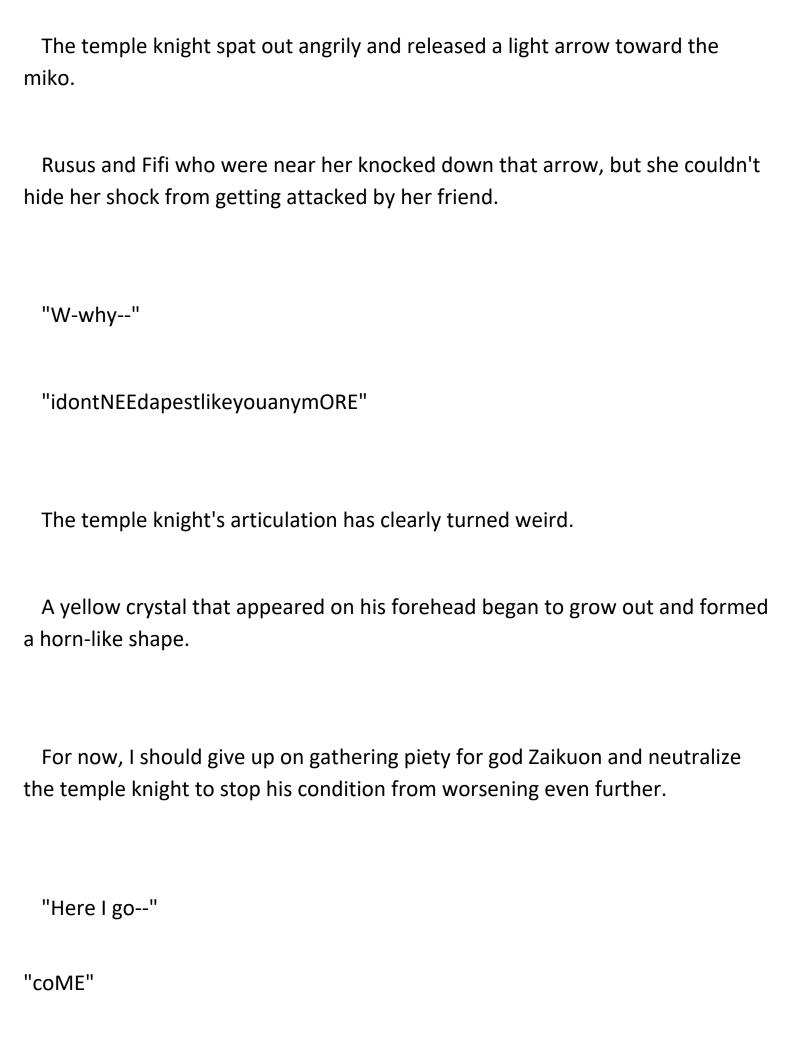
The arrows were released like some sort of missile attack in a robot anime, and hit the transparent wall in the arena's boundary, inviting flashes and

thunderous sounds, along with screams and angry yells from the audience.
The defensive wall that protected the audience is smashed down like scattered broken glass.
Half of the arrows went toward me and the rock miko along with Rusus and Fifi behind me, but I cut down all of them with my magic sword.
"What is this guy doing"
I guess he must be offended by the verbal abuse earlier.
By doing this, instead of getting more believers, it won't be strange if people boycott god Zaikuon instead.
It seems as if it was the temple knight who took the initiative, not god Zaikuon, his act of aggression must be driven by his emotions.
"nuhahahaHYAhaha"
He's going for the third volley, the amount of arrows is fewer than before, but all of them are aimed at the audience.

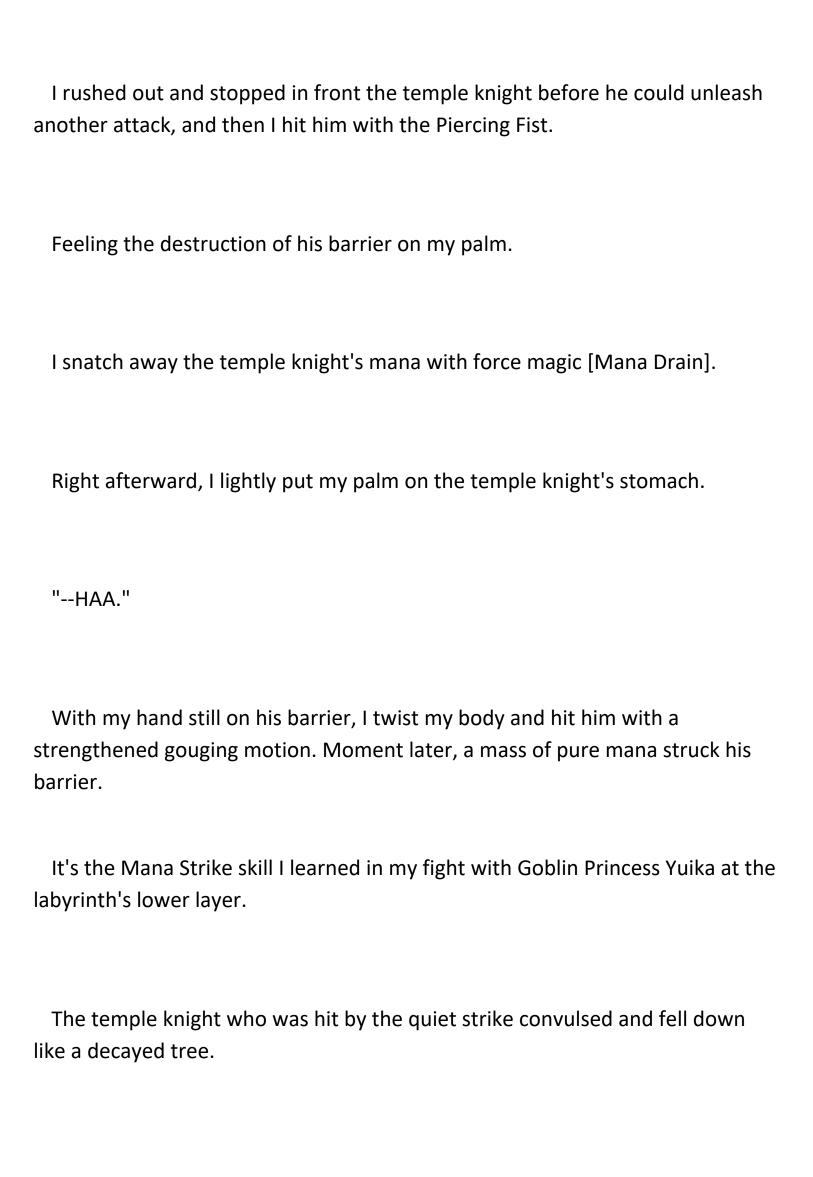
Think I'll let you?
While chanting the [< <flexible shield="">>] spell, I shot down the arrows with magic edge cannon shot out of my magic sword.</flexible>
The arrows created by the Vanquish Archer move about in mid air in an attempt to evade my magic edge cannon, but I also moved my magic edge cannon mid-air to home in on the arrows.
One of the arrow dodged the magic edge cannon and flew toward the audience.
An explosion occurred at the audience seat.
Red lights flew off, blowing away the explosion's smoke.
"Master! Please leave this to me!"
It's Liza.

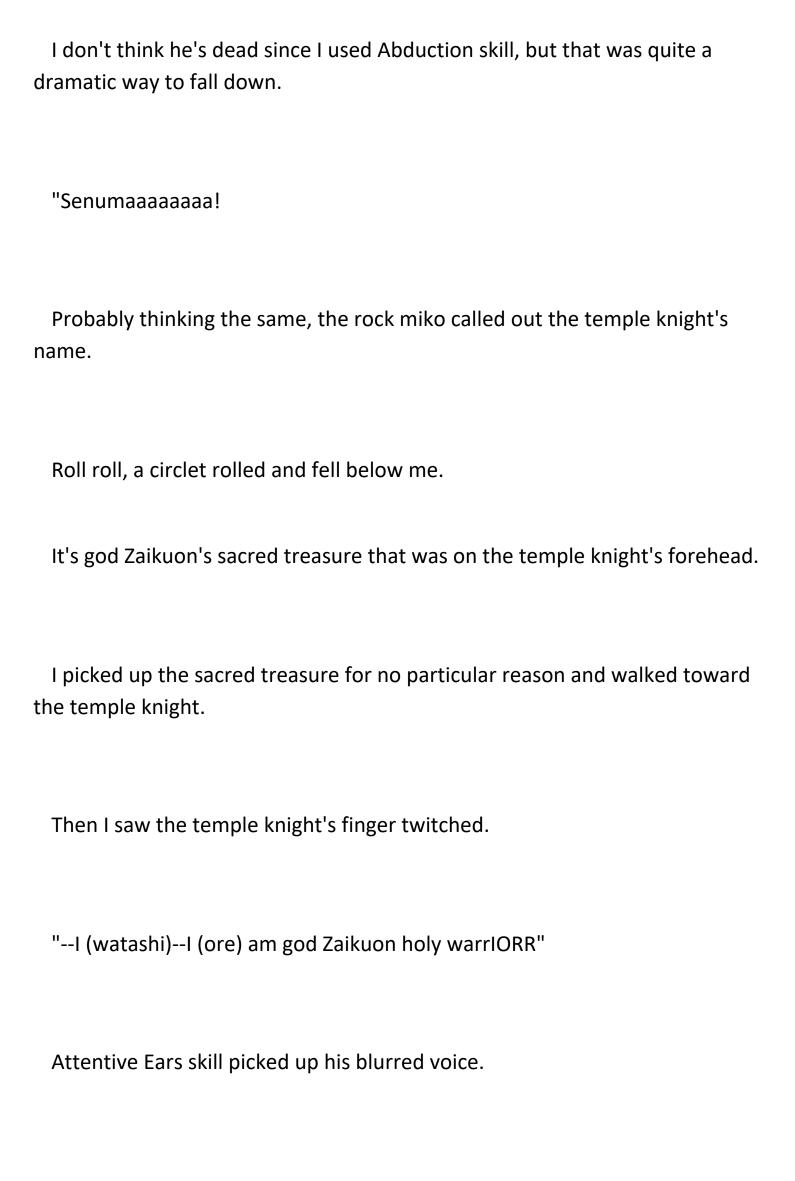


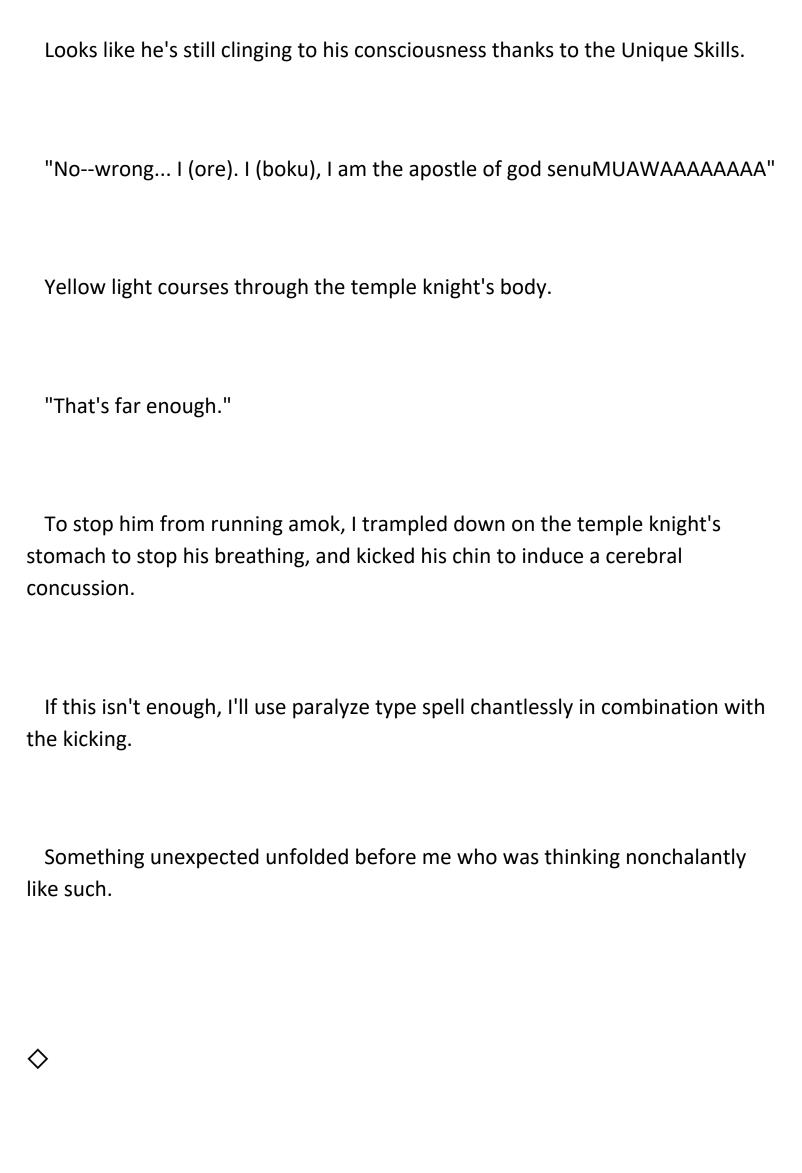




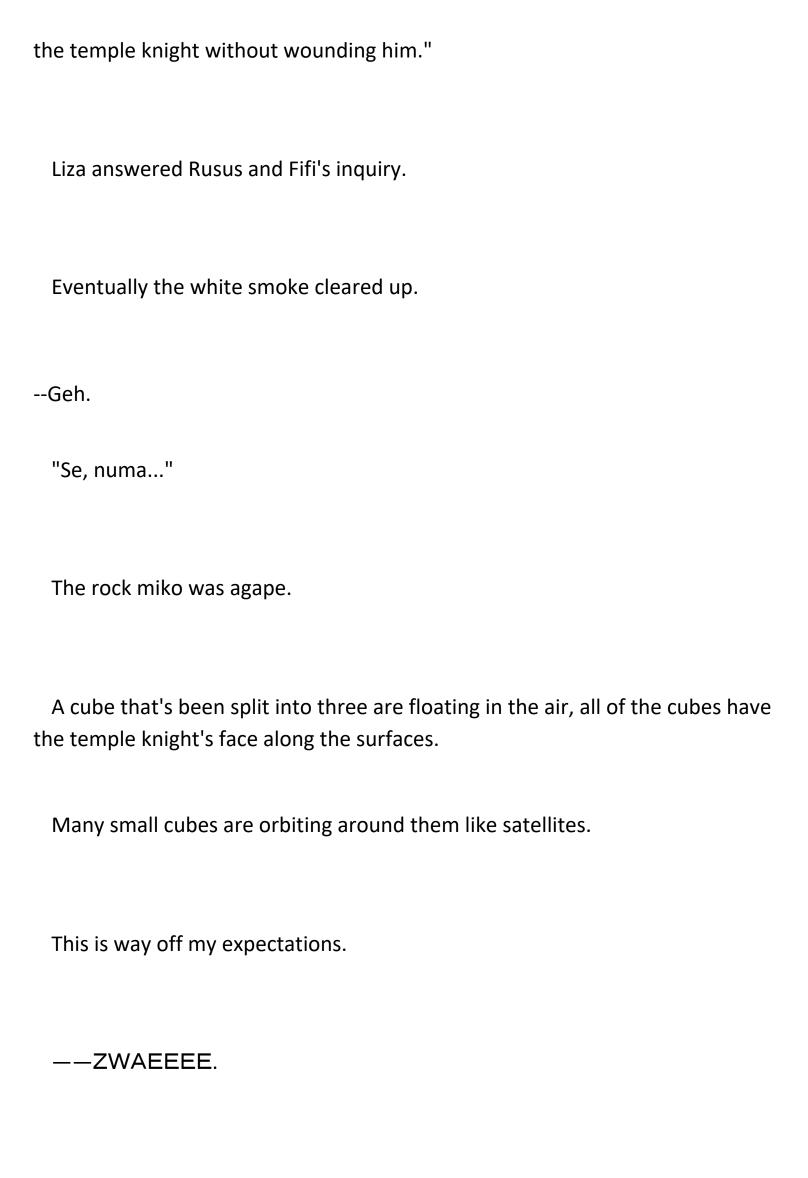
I slipped through the rain of light arrows, and evaded the slash that cut the arena into two by a paper thin difference.



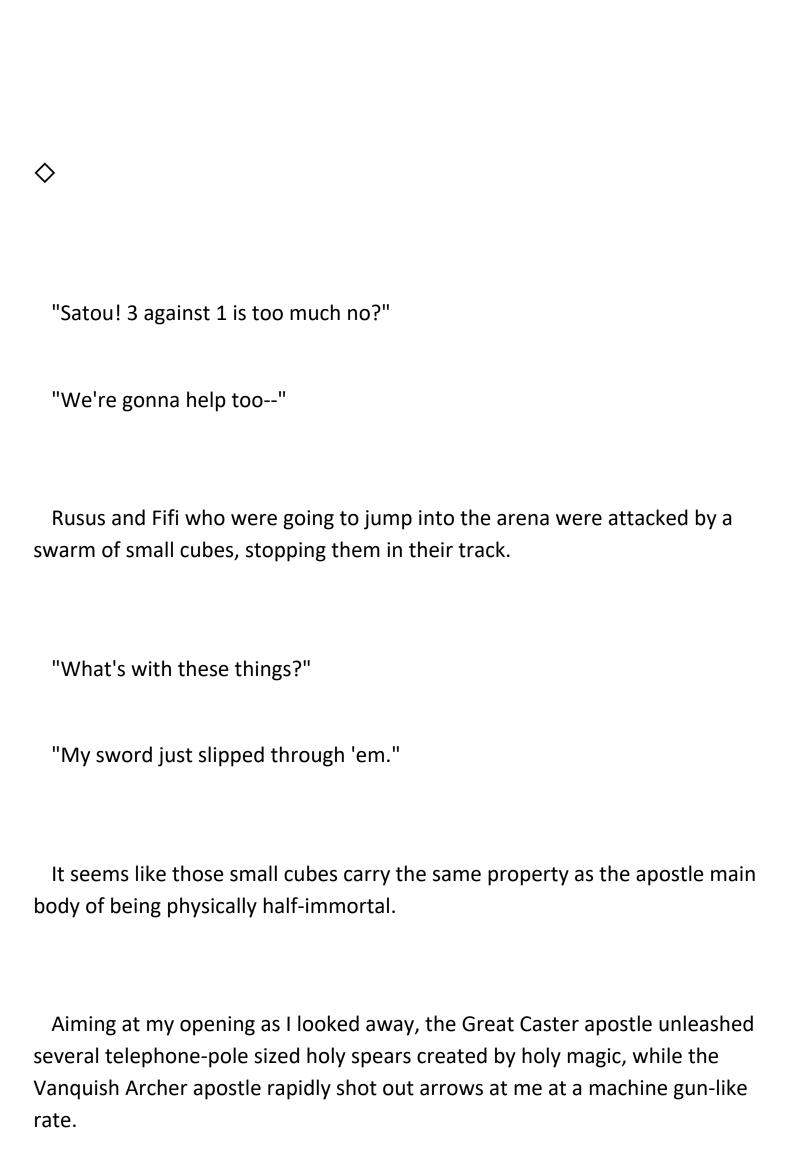


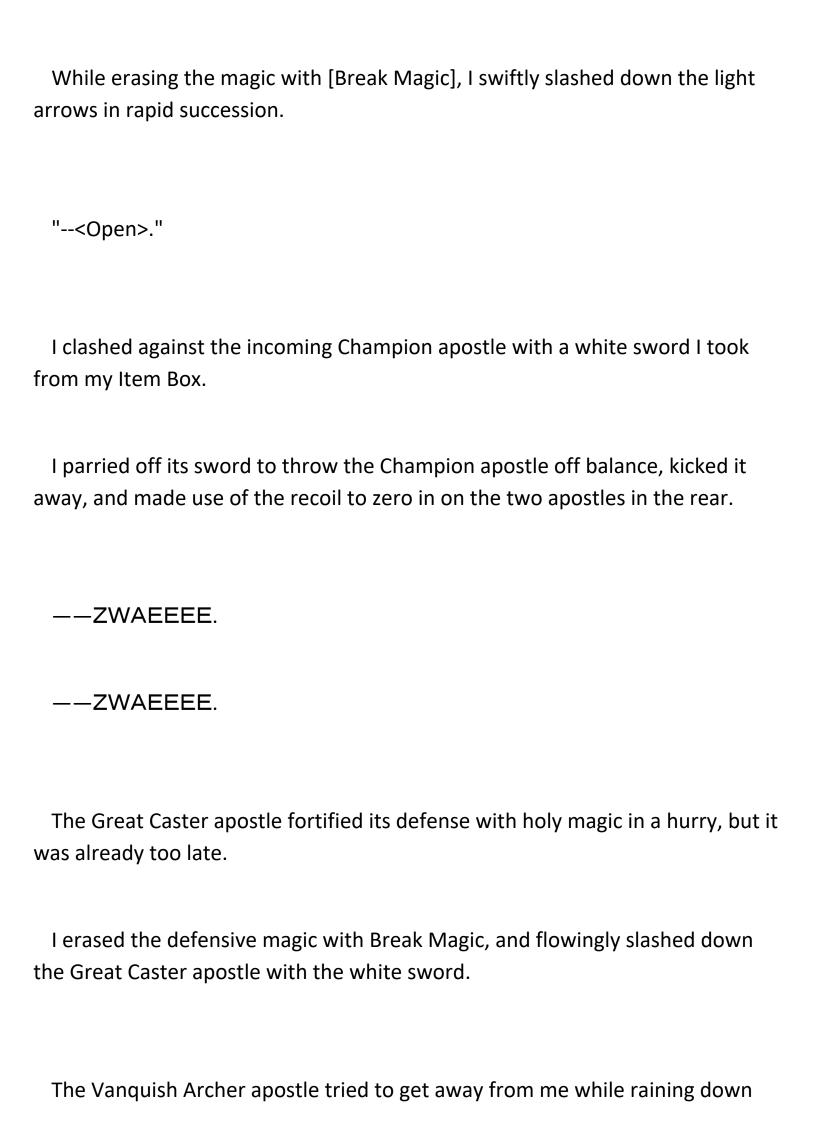


"SENUMAAAAAA!"
The sound of an explosion and the rock miko's scream filled the arena that had lost any sign of human presence.
White splinters clad in yellow light jump out of the yellow smoke that appeared along with the explosive sound.
I produced < <flexible shield="">> chantlessly to block those splinters, but they easily</flexible>
passed
through the shield.
I took a light step to evade the white splinters while being surprised by that
"What just?"
"That temple knight called Senuma appears to have exploded."
"Exploded? By Satou's attack?"
"No, not because of that. Master's attacks were all in an effort to knock out



ZWAEEEE.
——ZWAEEEE.
Coarse sounds like that of apostles echoed, yellow light overflowed out of the cubes.
Each of the cube appears to host a [God's Fragment], wearing the effect of [Champion], [Vanquish Archer], and [Great Caster].
While the the temple knight's faces were still running along the cubes' surfaces, the cubes changed their shapes geometrically, and ultimately settled down into a low-polygonal humanoid shape.
The faces disappeared all at once, and then a new temple knight's face appeared on the triangular-shaped heads.
"Senuma, why"
The rock miko muttered in a daze while shedding tears unceasingly.
Now then, defeating them is easy, but whatever should I do here





arrows of light on me.

I evaded the attack by successively using Ground Shrink, and cut the Vanquish Archer apostle into two.

Yellow light orbs parted away from the apostles that disappeared into white powder.

Ordinarily, I would have immediately obliterated them with the Divine Sword, but that would definitely invite god Zaikuon's grudge, thus I decide observe them here instead.

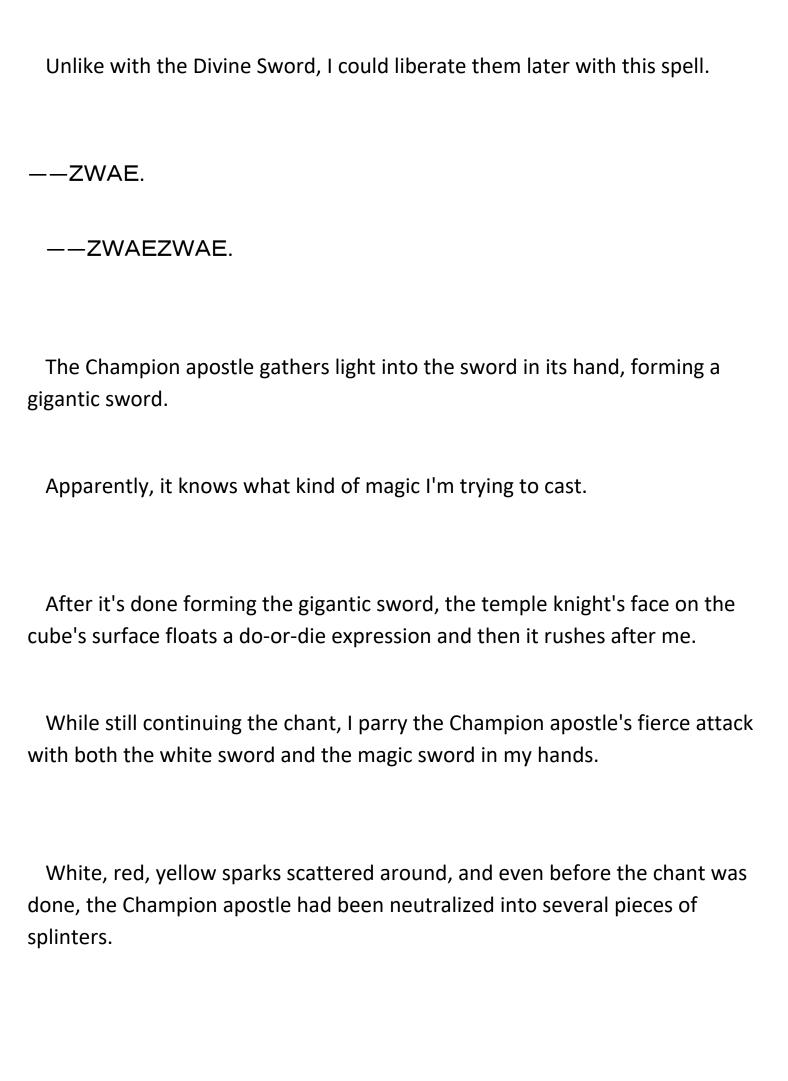
--ZWAEEEE.

The Champion apostle closed in at a speed rivaling that of a bullet shot out of a rail gun, I blocked it with the white sword and hurled it away.

Looks like the Champion apostle was aiming for the yellow light orbs.

"------ -- -- ----.."

I began to chant the [God Sealing] spell that Corpse had taught me at the labyrinth's lower layer.





I continue the sealing spell chant while gazing at the remains of the Champion apostle since there's no declaration of victory yet.

With the splinters still on the ground, the temple knight's faces are reflected on some of them like a reflection in the mirror.

"...bBOWQUUam...HOLyknight."

I could hear a voice-like sound when I touched the splinter.

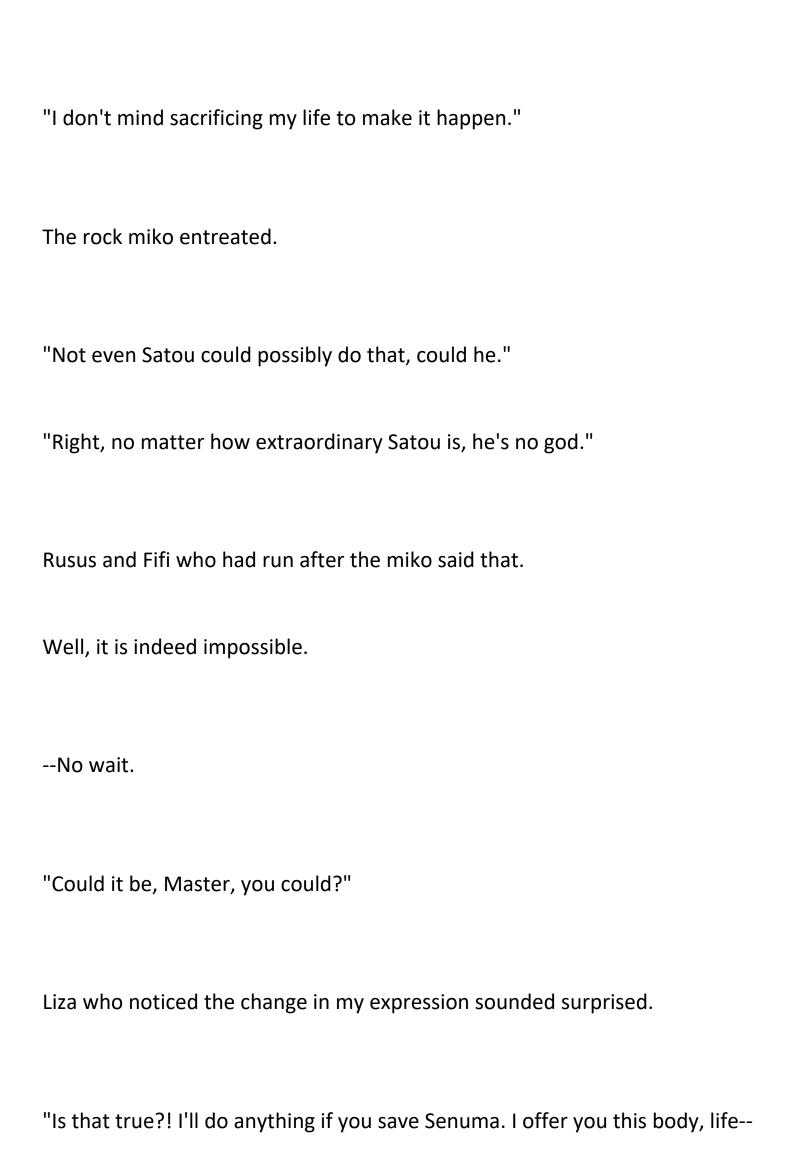
"Senuma!"

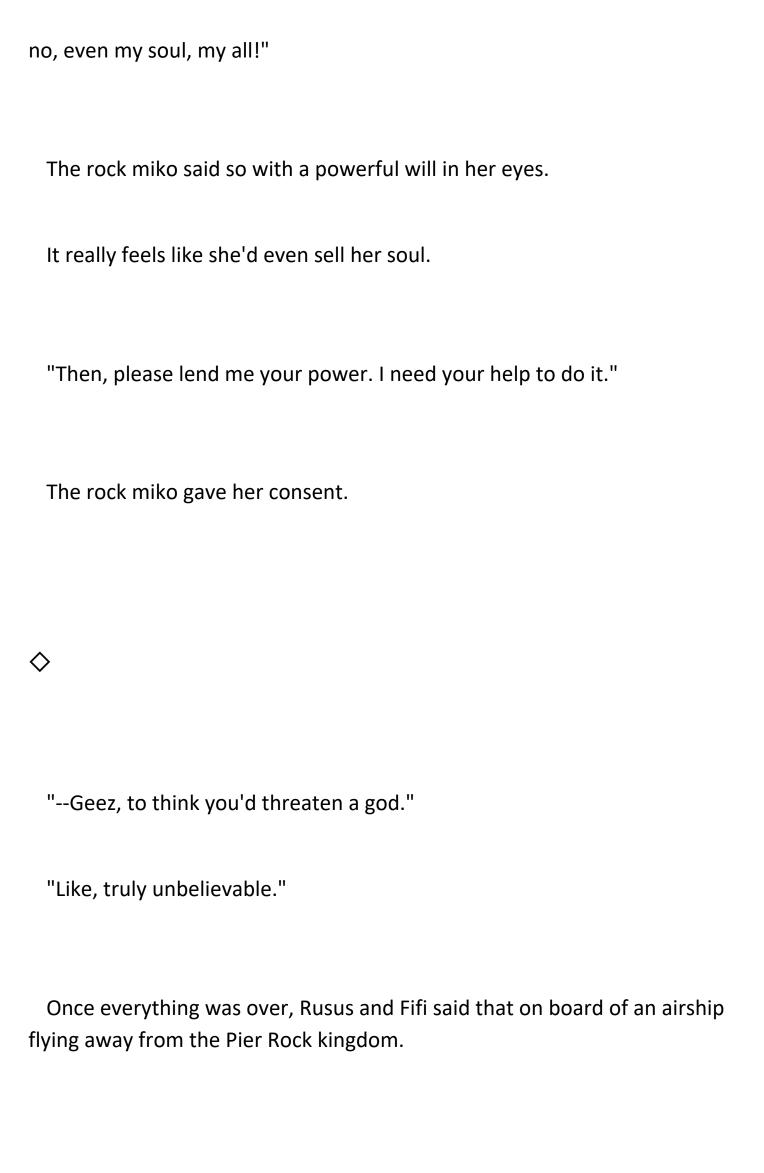
The rock miko ran up and hug one of a biggish splinter in her chest.

White thorn rises up from that splinter, growing toward the rock miko's forehead.

However, the wicked blade was naught to reach the miko.







"But I didn't threaten anyone. I merely made a request to god Zaikuon."

I sealed the [God's Fragments] that came out of the two apostles, linked with the rock miko's mind to call god Zaikuon, and asked him to put back the temple knight's soul that had remained in the last apostle into a new body created from the apostle's remain as a condition to release the two sealed fragments.

"Well, ain't it fine?"

"And the temple knight's rampage was treated like it was the demon's handiwork, so no harm done on god Zaikuon's reputation either."

Rusus and Fifi shrugged their shoulder.

Once everything was over, I made a show of flashy rays and sounds of explosions with light magic, produced god Zaikuon's mark high above the arena's sky to authentically make it look like god Zaikuon did something, and then I came out of the arena with the sacred treasure equipped.

A demon assuming the temple knight Senuma's appearance was rampaging, and I and the rock miko who had received an oracle stood up to eliminate the demon, or so the story was spread.

Since I came out of the arena equipped with armor befitting that of a holy

warrior, a great many people appeared to believe it.
Well, perhaps it's thanks to that follow-up, I've successfully cleared the trial and got the [Mark of Zaikuon] on my title column.
There's also some disgruntled sounding titles like [One who Tricks God], and [Disrespectful Traitor] among the titles, but I don't really care as long as I cleared the trial.
"There was no riot either, ain't it fine?"
"It hasn't been long since the divine punishment, like any moron would cause a riot."
Rusus and Fifi turned their sight outside the window while sipping on ale.
"In the end, you went and donated to all temples?"
"Trifling it may be"
I affirmed Rusus's question.

I gave donations to all seven temples, 100 gold coins and food of equal proportion to each. According to these two, Saga Empire would come to help with provision even if I left them be, but I wouldn't want people there to starve while waiting for that. "So, are you really going there? There's nothing but ruins y'know?" "Yes, there's something I need to check out a bit." I replied to Fifi who was delightfully gnawing on dry-cured ham. "I would come to play too if the vampire survived~" "That sounds fun." Liza who came out victorious in a match against the rib meat took a leg meat while agreeing to Rusus. We're heading to a city at the neighboring country that was destroyed by

vampires.

Since that city has been blockaded by Saga Empire, I've asked Rusus and Fifi to let us pass while also escorting them to the Dragg Kingdom.
Since I'm planning to dispatch Echigoya branch offices in the countries around here, it'll be bad if some stray vampires that are good at hiding lurk around, so I'd like to investigate first.
"Hey hey, Satou."
"Wanna wager whether Meiko who went to Dragg Kingdom ahead of time picked a fight with the country's guardian dragon or not?"
Rusus and Fifi said some foreboding sounding thing with a smile on their whole face.
Apparently, there's a lot of brawn for brains girls in this world.
Seeing the two, Liza also smiled.
"Guardian dragon is it. I would love to have a match with it myself."
Et tu, Liza.

16-50. Vampires

Satou here. Don't you think that the most terrifying thing about vampires that come up in movies and stories is their ability to turn people into vampires? Since their proliferation rate outstrips even that of rats'.



"Snacks that Satou made really are the best."

"This liquor is pretty nice too, no? Saga Empire's brandy huh?"

"Ale is nice too, but this snack go down the best with strong stuff!"

Rusus and Fifi sipped their glasses in good moods in the airship's main cabin.

They're already without their armor, wearing risky-looking clothing.

Liza is in the room too, she's currently absorbed in sampling the seven types of jerky we stocked at Pier Rock kingdom.

"Where'd the lil' girls go?"

"I asked them to do some errands for me."

"Eeh, booring."

The drunk Rusus puts my head under her arm.

The sensation on my cheek is quite wonderful, but the impregnable fortress pair would intrude in if this kept up, thus I steel myself and get away from the sweet powerful shackles.

"You're gonna fight dragons once we arrived at Dragg Kingdom 'rite?"

Fifi said some dangerous sounding words.

Come to think of it, the treasures in my Storage belong to [Dragg Holy Kingdom].

Since they look like old coins, it might be a currency used in the country that precedes Dragg Kingdom.

"I can't wait for it. How bout you Liza, ever fought a dragon?"

"Yes--"

Replying Rusus, Liza who blurted out unintentionally realized her verbal slip and looked at me.

"--You fought some lesser dragons when we visited the western countries, remember."

"Lesser dragons huh--Well, I guess that's only right."

"True dragons are on a whole different level than those."

Rusus and Fifi nodded at each other when I replied in Liza's stead.

"Is that true?"

"Those guys are simply outta this world, just you know."

"There was this time we ran into a blue and a red dragons at Saga Empire, they were way out of league it wasn't even a fight."

"I mean, a single breath managed to blow us away."

"On top of having a wide range, it was unbelievably fast, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Hayato's protection given by god."

Rusus and Fifi narrated their story while looking boastful somewhat.

Hearing that, Liza replied with, "Truly", with a meaningful look on her face.

Indeed, there's no way to evade those laser-like breaths of a true dragon without something like Ground Shrink or Flash Drive, no way to block them either without a Fortress-class barrier at least.

While we were having such a conversation, I caught sights of overflowing refuges in the towns and forts trailing to the neighboring country, thus I landed the airship and shared provisions to them many times.

Food in the form of portable carry cereal bars made of a mix of Giant Kelp fine powder, finely chopped dried fish and sea serpent meat.



"Think we're about to arrive soon?"

Leaving the dead drunk Rusus and Fifi in the main cabin, I went to the deck with Liza.

I realized that we were out of Pier Rock Kingdom on the Map, so I used [All Map Exploration] from the magic list.

I don't see any vampire in the monster domains around the neighboring kingdom.

I used [All Map Exploration] again once we got out of the monster domain and reached the neighboring country.

"--Lots of them seem to have been scattered about."

Not insignificant numbers of Vampire Slaves and Blood Stalkers are still lurking in the two destroyed towns, while one Vampire and several Vampire Slaves are hiding in the subterranean tunnel of the Royal Capital.

"I shall immediately go exterminate them if Master wishes so."

"Right then..."

According to the documents I have on hand, only Vampire class and above have the ability to increase their numbers, I should leave the clean up in the destroyed Tokislu town to Saga Empire's expeditionary force and to Tokiswolk Kingdom's troops who must be hellbent on getting their revenge.

Since Vampire Slaves and Blood Stalkers are relatively strong, they will likely suffer some casualties, but from what I've seen through space magic Clairvoyance, butting in here seems like it would invite their grudges instead.

"...We should leave this area to the local troops, I'll be counting on you to look for the vampires in the capital city later."

"Understood."

Liza gave her affirmation.

The airship came nearby Tokislu town while were conversing, thus I decided to land the airship there to offer our help.

I'm not going to participate in the subjugation, but there should be no problem in sharing provisions here.

I gave them lots of magic potions, magic tools embedded with light gem that vampires hate, and a few simple version of holy monuments.

I hope it could ease Tokiswolk Kingdom's generals and soldiers even a bit.

I also asked about what happened during the vampire raid.

"--It just suddenly happened?"

"Yeah. Missing persons increasing, weird incidents happening, monsters and beasts shifting locations, it was completely void of those omens."

According to the soldiers, no [Vampire] was ever sighted here since the country was founded.

"This Tokislu town was overrun by vampires the same day the Royal Capital's Parion Temple Miko received an oracle."

"Lots of rumors flying about like maybe the gate of hell had opened, or that they were summoned through a ritual by an evil sect's Soul Art users, but the truth is shrouded in darkness."

The two towns were destroyed practically in the same day, the capital suffered an attack by masses of vampires when the other six temples were on their way to convey the oracle they received.

"The attack was carried out in daytime?"

"Yea, there was an out of season torrential rain on that day, musta because the sun those vampires hate didn't show up then."

"Now that ya mention it, the survivors of Tokislu town also said there was a torrential rain on the first day too."

"Damn, what a totally shitty coincidence in this dry season."

I heard some troubling words in the soldiers' conversation, so I tried to search the Map and found neither evil sect nor Soul Art users in this country.

Didn't catch any sight of people powerful enough to cast magic capable of manipulating weathers like reincarnated people with Unique Skills either.

After thanking the soldiers for the info, I took off on the airship.



"Where did those vampires come from--"

I'm pondering while feeling the winds on the airship's deck.

According to the documents I have on hand, the vampires in this world cannot multiply as easily as they would in tales about vampires on earth.

Vampires here have three specific skills that can be used to increase their numbers; [Blood Covenant], [Blood Contract], and [Blood Subordination].

[Blood Subordination] is used to create [Blood Stalkers] from corpses.

The ability to create Vampire Slaves and Vampires, [Blood Contract], has some restrictions; it needs a ritual to be performed during a night of full moon, thrice. Once a ritual has been performed, the recipient will have [Blood Contract: In Progress] state.

In other worlds, creating one vampire above Blood Stalker class needs at least two months time.

The documents state that Appraisal skill cannot see through the [Blood Contract: In Progress] state, however, it's hard to believe that no one noticed the amount of vampires needed to destroy a countries the entire time.

Additionally, the [Blood Covenant] greater vampires have can create vampires with [Blood Contract] ability.

"--Guess asking the person itself will be the fastest."

I muttered so while gazing at the Tokiswolk's capital city in the distant.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"...This is terrible."

"Yes, it's a like a village in the wake of war."

I'm currently strolling the capital city with Liza.

Lethargic people sitting beside rubbles and burned down houses, the sights of piled up bodies being burned with fire magic and oil, and the figures of people crying around those piles.

These sights would have been enough to make me hate vampires as a whole if I wasn't acquainted with true ancestor Ban Hellsing and vampire princess Semeri.

I asked Rusus and Fifi to get a permission from Saga Empire's garrison in the capital city to let us through.

Of course, my goal is to separate the two away from us.

"Looks like we can get into the tunnel from there."

I head for a drainage trench at a riverside.

To meet the vampires lurking in the capital city of course.

I buff Liza with dark magic [Night Sight] and went into the tunnel without lighting.

Red dots are reflected in my Radar.

"Master."

"Yeah, they're here."

Vampire Slaves.

They seem to have noticed us, they're moving toward the Vampire's location, slightly away from them.

"Hold it, Liza."

"Should we not run after them?"

"We can't get through that path with our physiques."

I stopped Liza who saw the red eyes, and picked the shortest route to the Vampire's hiding place.

Someone was waiting for us when we got close to the hiding place.

"Stop!"

The voice of a boy.

Six red lights float in the darkness at the direction of the voice.

It's the

Vampire Slaves.

"I need to interrogate them, no killing, got it?"

"Acknowledged."

Liza closed in on the Vampire Slaves with Flickering Step and suppressed them with a single blow.

Without even giving the Vampire Slaves a chance to use their specific ability, [Mist Form].

"Cats and children..."

I restrain the Vampire Slaves with soul magic [Soul Bind (Hold Undead Soul)].

They'd get away with Mist Form if I used ordinary ropes.

This magic seems to be painful to undeads, the Vampire Slaves are groaning in anguish.

I feel pretty bad since their appearances are that of cats and infants.

The last red dot approached us while I was thinking that.

A shadow jumped out of an inconspicuous corner in the tunnel.

Liza quickly holds down the shadow on the ground while leaving trails of red light from her magic spear, without me having to do anything.

"Torque! Please, I don't mind what you do to me, just please let them go!"

The hiding Vampire was a girl.

Moreover, her attire is that of a normal village girl you could find anywhere.

According to AR readings, she's a level 20 Vampire with all the specific abilities peculiar to the species, but she's only 12 year old without skills nor

gifts.

Detailed info taught me that she was a daughter of an ordinary family that lived in the capital city.

Dunno if I could get any info out of her, but I should ask just to be sure.

"Tell me all information you have. I'll let them off with their lives if you could give me a satisfactory one."

"Information? What kind of information? I'll tell you anything!"

She's more obedient than I thought.

Looks like there was no need for hostages and interrogation.

"When did you become a vampire?"

"I don't know. I had fangs before I realized it, and when I saw mom and my little brothers, their blood..."

The girl mumbled at the end.

When our eyes met, the girl hesitantly spoke, "Thirsting for blood, she was afraid she'd assault her family and ran out of her house."

"Then tell me what you can recall about the time before you turned into vampire. No matter how trivial it is."

"Before I turned?"

"Before you have fangs."

The girl closed her mouth with a serious look afterward.

She's probably retracing her memories.

"I got unusual jerky from the uncle next door. It was really tasty."

Liza who's standing next to me is slowly swinging her tail, probably piqued by the girl's story.

"I ate the jerky at the fountain since my little brother would have snatched if I went home... A hunter with his dog came by to get water from the fountain, and I was injured by the dog who jumped for the jerky. Huh? But it's healed. Even though it was really painful and I had it bandaged."

The girl recited the day in stutters.

Even though there were some suspicious episodes, none seemed to be related to the vampire yet.

"Come to think of it, there was someone weird at the fountain square."

"Someone weird?"

"Un, he was fetching water from the fountain even though he was a noble."

Well, normally nobles would have sent their servants to do that.

According to the girls, his entire body was hidden in a hooded mantle, the girl concluded that he was a noble since the clothes seen from the mantle's gap was that of a foreign high-class suit.

"Also..."

"Also?"

I urged on the girl who hesitated to continue on.

"That person went away somewhere after leaving the pot he used to draw water."

That's suspicious for sure.

"Did anything unusual happen afterward?"

"Nn, I don't think so."

I asked the girl about the location of the fountain in question, and checked it with space magic [Clairvoyance].

There was not even a trace of the pot.

It was either taken away or destroyed during the vampire raid.

"--Ah."

The girl raised her face.

"I got stung by a bug."

The girl raised her skirt and pointed at her leg.

Not a trace of bug bite there.

It must have been healed by the recovery rate of a vampire.

"Remember anything about your surroundings? Like how other people were like."

"Other people? Oh right, lots of people were yawning."

"At what time?"

"At the second afternoon bell, I think? Even though it was the time when I was usually awake and hungry, I felt really sleepy so I went straight home, I think."

And apparently, she was a vampire when she came to.

--No, wait.

Something bothered me with what she said.

"You think?"

"Un, I don't really remember what happened after I felt sleepy."

It seems like her memories are quite fragmented.

I tried to probe for her missing memories with mind magic as a form of hypnotherapy, but I only found out that there was nothing unnatural involved, like memory deletion or tampering through some means.

The seemingly nobleman that drew water with a pot at the fountain is the most suspicious.

The unusual jerky and the hunter with a dog are suspicious too, but it's impossible for them to be involved with the vampire incident.

The bug is suspicious too with the bloodsucking thing and all, but these fiction on earth-like stuff like turning people into vampires by means of insects can't possibly exist in this world.

Just in case, I contacted my beloved high elf Aze-san at the Boruenan forest, Hikaru who was acting as the founder king, and the [Master of Forbidden

Library] princess Sistina through space magic [Telephone], and re-confirmed that the only ways to create vampires are through the three methods found in my documents and a ritual to bring forth True Ancestor.

"Now then, what to do with these kids..."

Apparently, my whisper was heard, as the kids began to hug each other while looking terrified.

I forgot about the outstanding senses of vampires.

"Don't worry, no need to get frightened. At the very least, we're not going to kill you."

These kids have no Crime of harming people carved on their status.

They must have been terrified and fled here.

I asked them about their ages and their family names, but I couldn't find those names in the country with Map search.

Unfortunately, they seem to have passed away during the vampire incident.

"Liza, please take care of things here for a bit."

I entrusted the kids' safety to Liza, teleported to the True Ancestor Ban's castle in the labyrinth's lower layer, and requested them to take the kids and cats into custody.

Of course, they asked me back for compensations, but they readily agreed to my request while also using this opportunity to kill their time.

Well, compensations here mean three bottles of a cheap wine [Lesseu's Blood], so it's really just for form's sake.



"Suspicious nobleman?"

"Aah, you must be talking about Prof from the [Sage's Tower]. He came to this country to conduct a research or something, methink?"

Sage's Tower should be the name of a city state where the Karion Main Temple resides.

Apparently, there were reports of suspicious individuals sighted by the citizens, one of the guard even dropped by to question him.

"Do you know his name?"

"Ah, I sure do. It was Shigan Saga or something."

--Saga?

"Is it perhaps."

"Yea, forgot if it was illegitimate child or grandchild prince, the stuff about having 100th seat for the succession got a laugh out of me."

A family member of Saga Emperor huh... The fishiness has been turned up to eleven.

I should search the Map just in case.

--There he is.

Or rather, was.

Shigan Saga has become a corpse in a forest near the capital city.

There's no other corpses around him in the Map.

Checking with space magic [Clairvoyance], he had been outfitted with thieflike attires, his face had been crushed, and there was nothing in his belonging that could be used to trace back his identity.

Well, Appraisal skill should be able to identify him to an extent, but there's no way anyone would dispatch an appraiser to a mountain where a bandit's corpse was found, neither would they carry a bandit's body down the mountain.

Judging from the situation, high chance he was killed to silence him.

I had declared that [There is no next time] when I put the [Damocles's Sword] in the emperor's bedroom, so even with the circumstantial evidences, I'm hard pressed to conclude that Saga Empire is behind this vampire incident.

I should investigate Saga Empire once again, which means I ought to meet Meiko at Dragg Kingdom.

I was planning to go ahead to the next trial after escorting Rusus and Fifi there, but the plan has changed.

I let out a small sight as the plan that's gone awry crossed my mind.

16-51. Guardian Dragon

Satou here. In many of earth mythologies, dragons are said to be equal to gods, an existence that slays gods. That it's been demoted to be a mere [good farming] monster must be because the popularization of home RPGs, no?



"Cross over the mountain range and it's tropic."

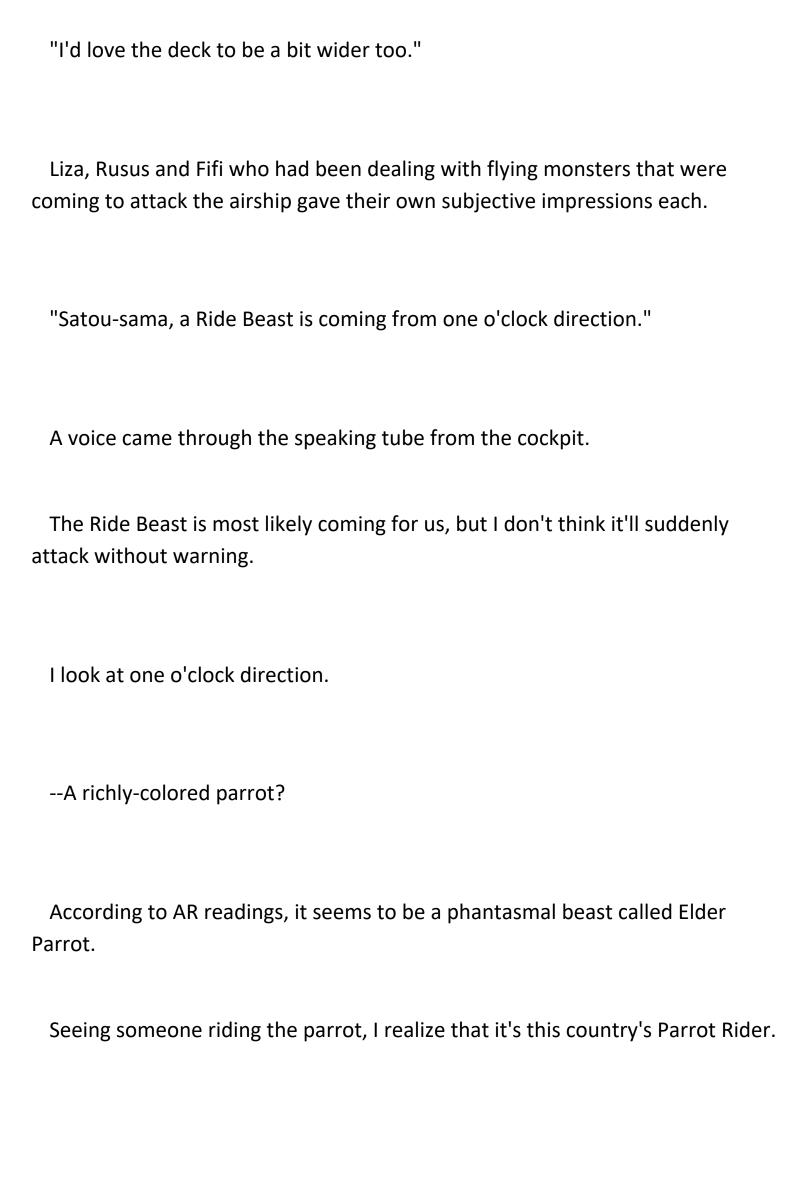
This is normal in a world where climate is controlled by City Cores, but I just can't brush off the fantastical feels.

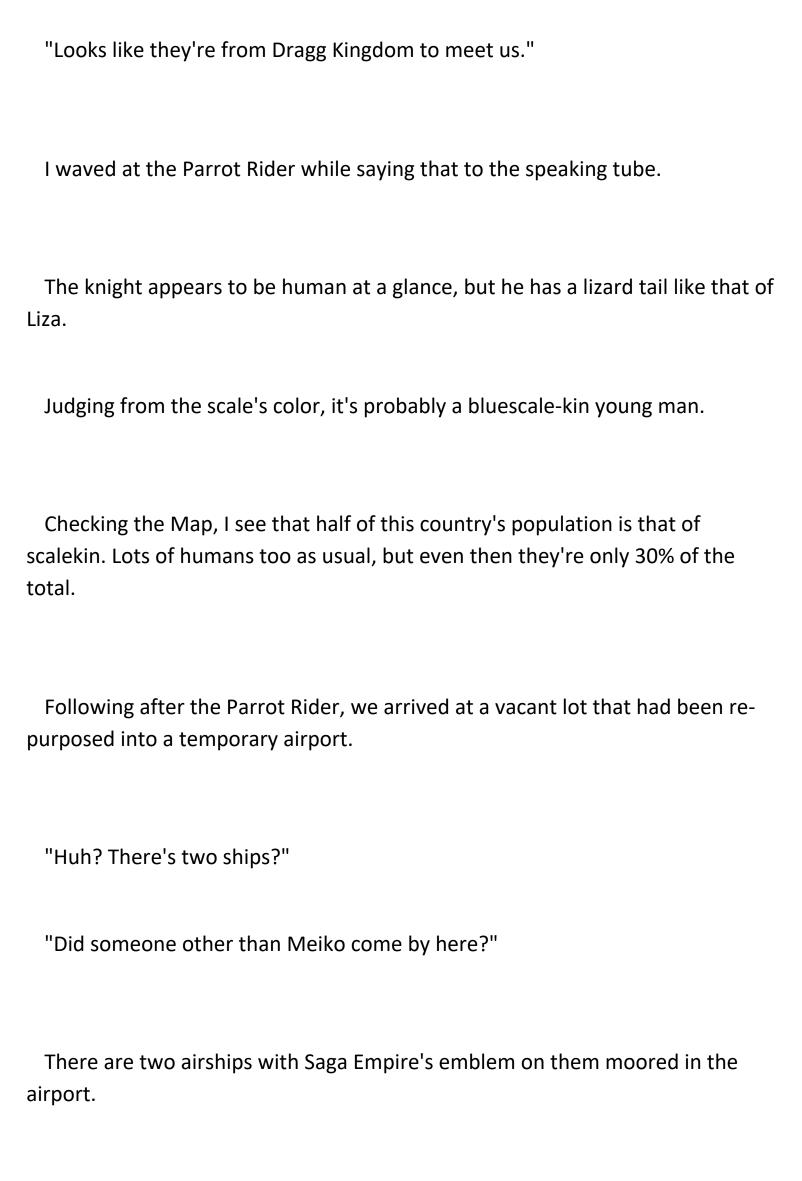
After leaving Tokiswolk Kingdom that had been partially destroyed by vampires, we got out of the long and narrow monster dominion facing north and arrived at Dragg Kingdom.

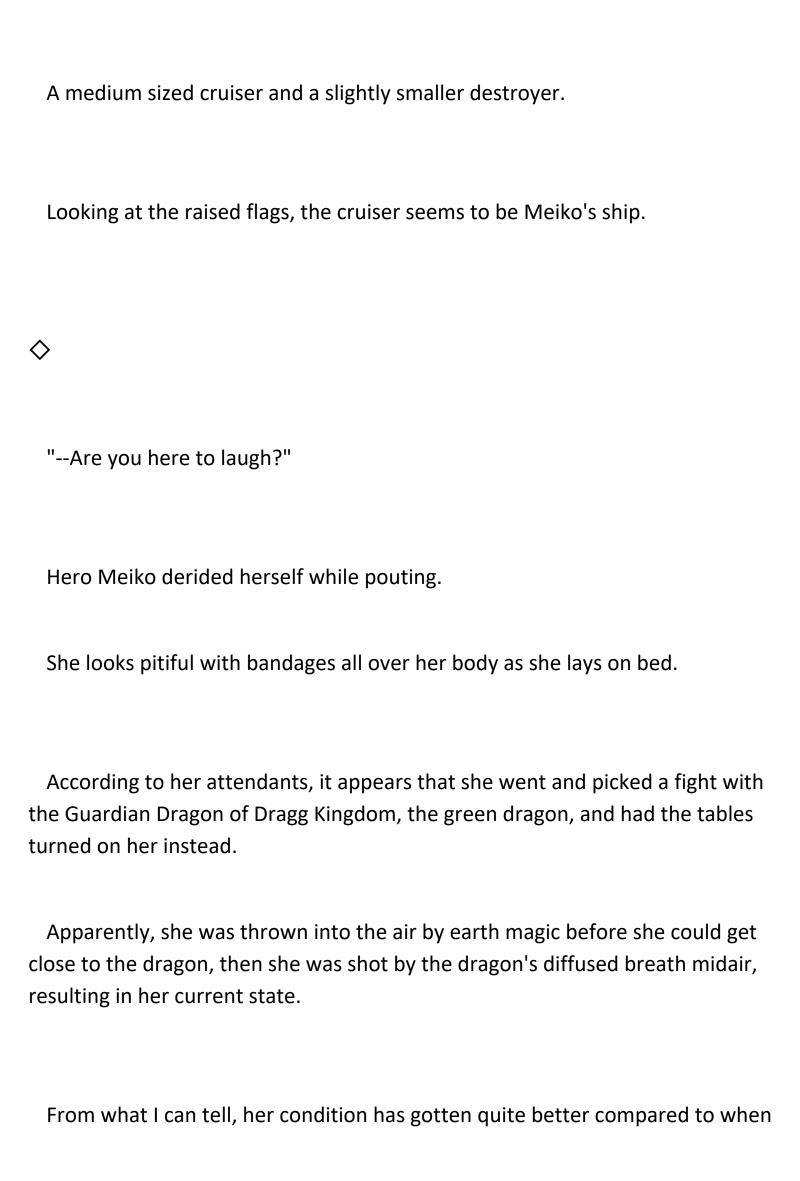
It's a curiously hot country with subtropical-like vegetation.

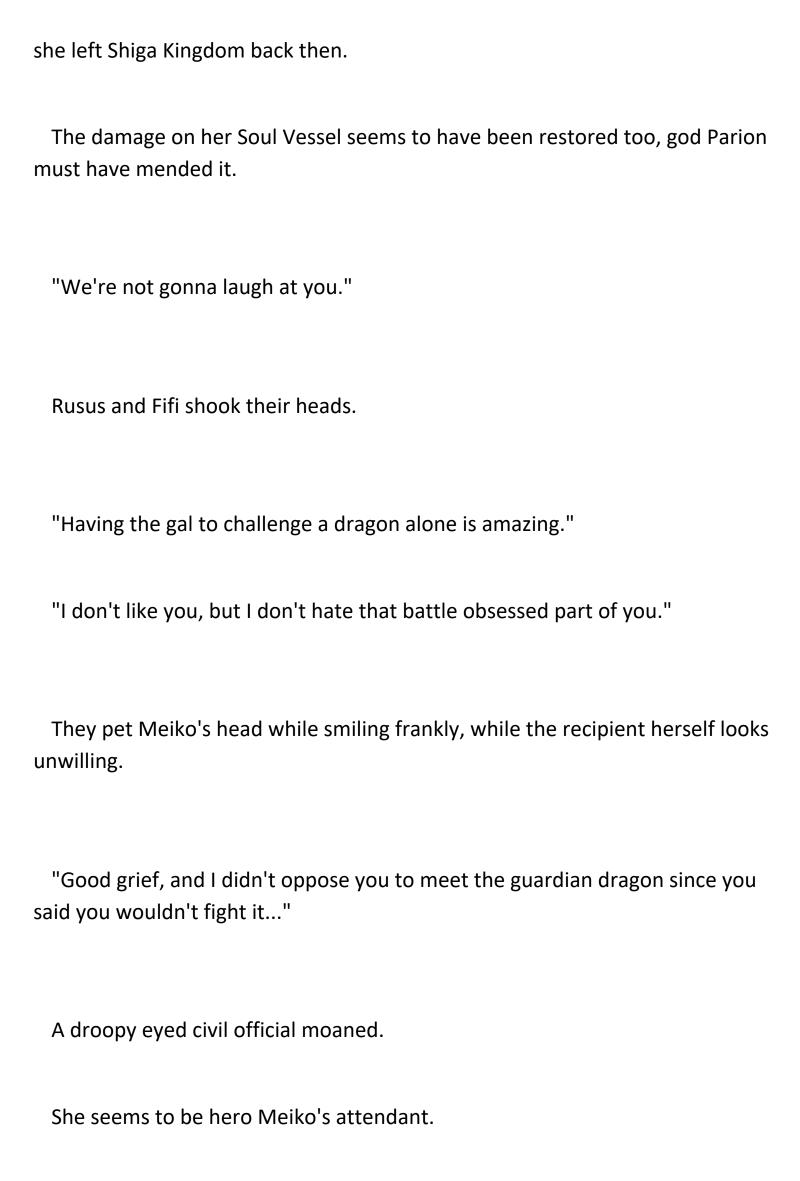
"This looks like a good country with lots of meat around."

"Woulda been fun if they were a wee bit stronger."



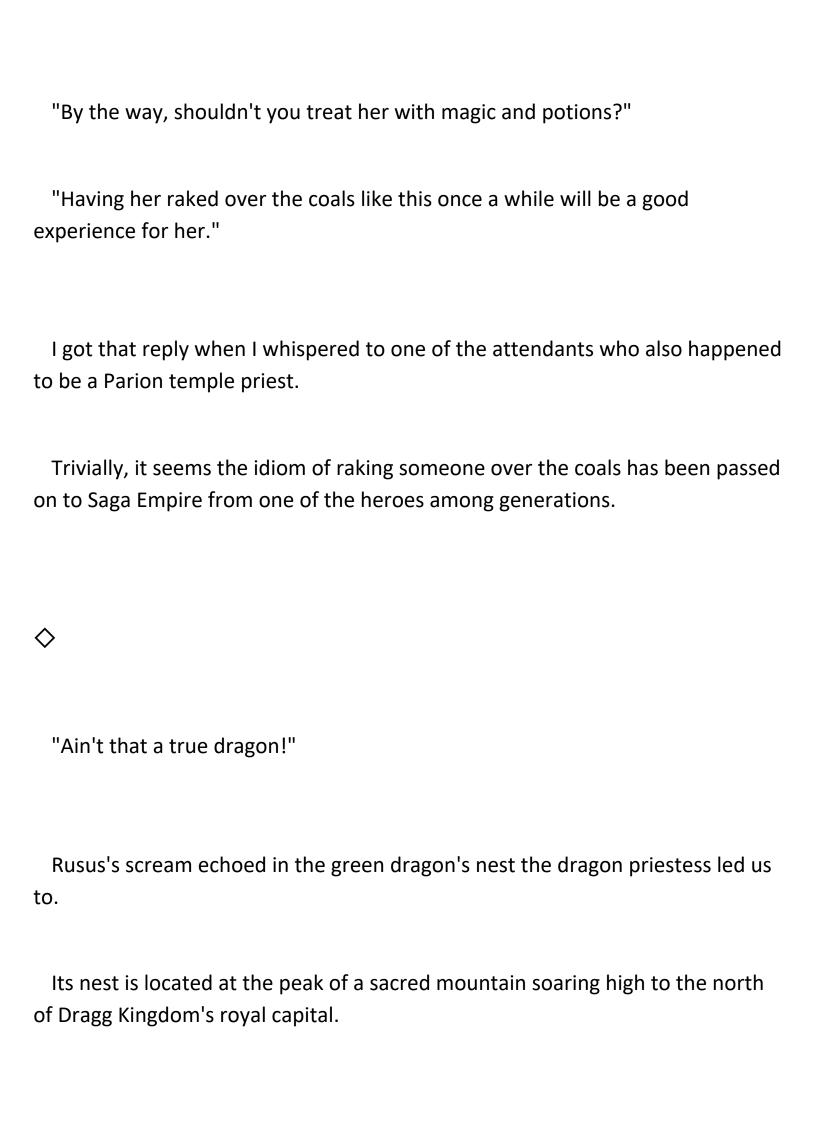


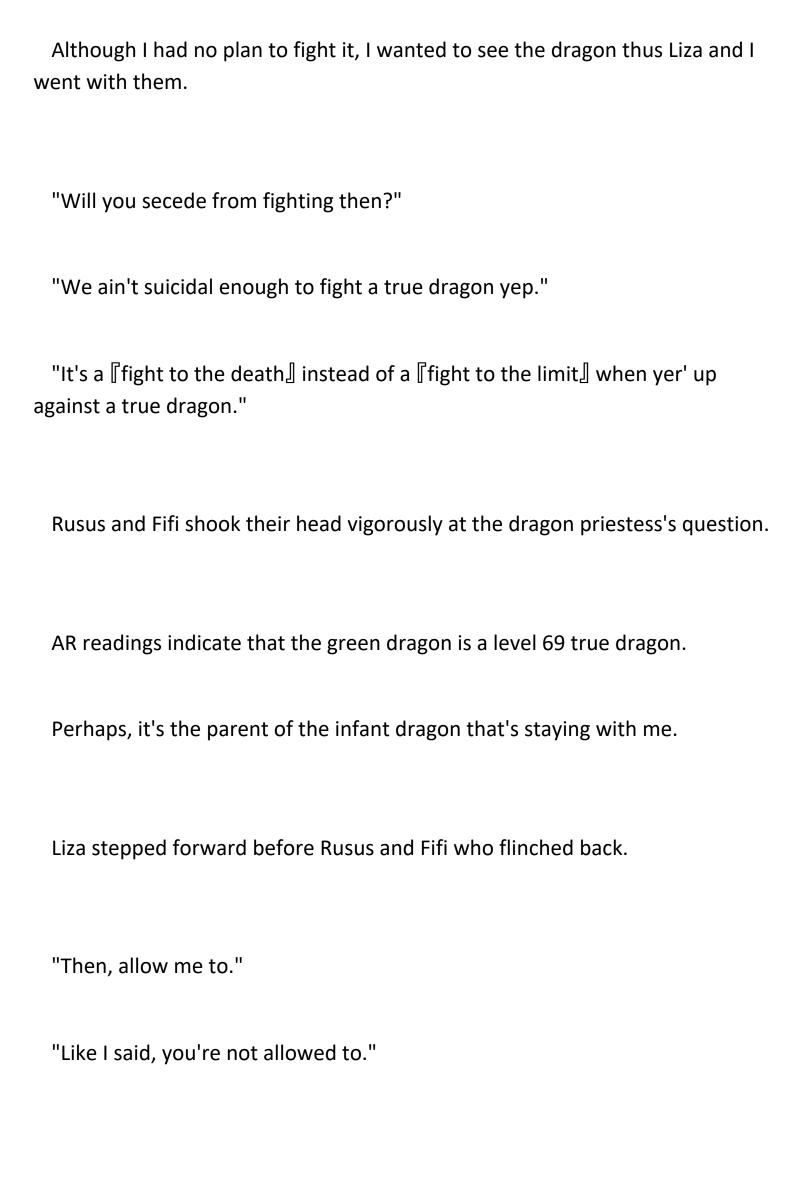


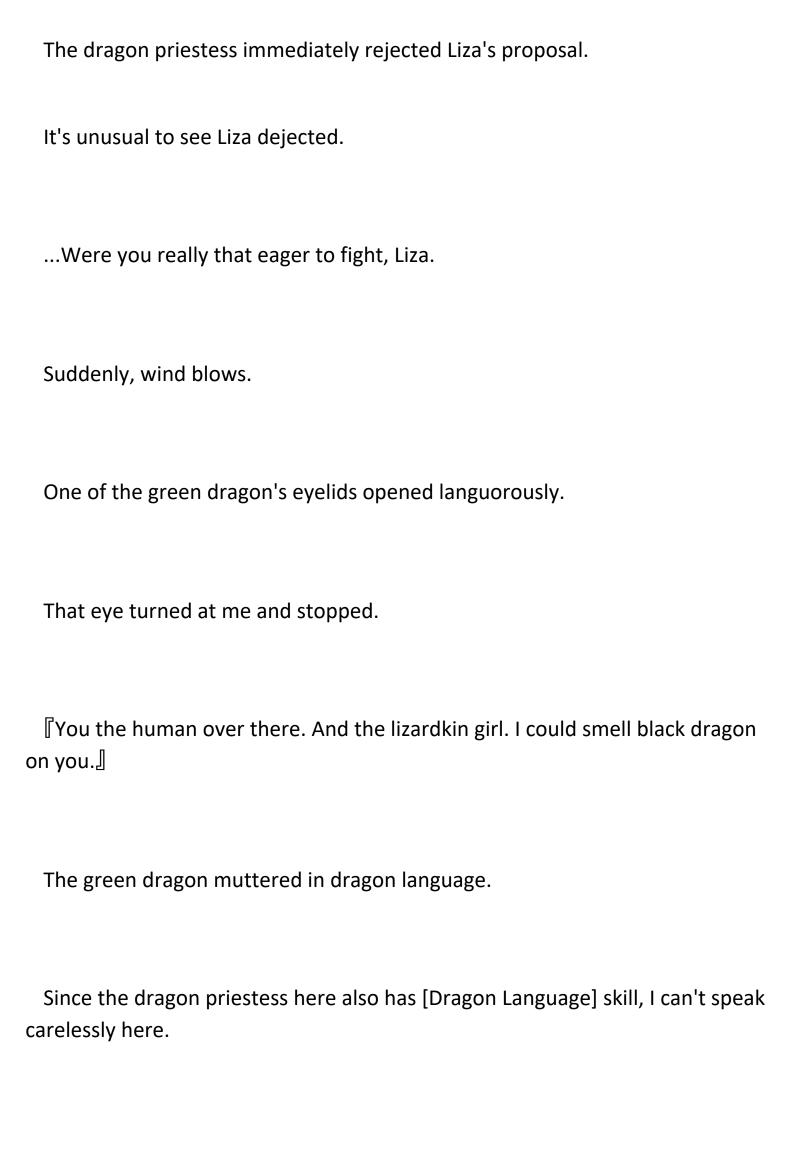


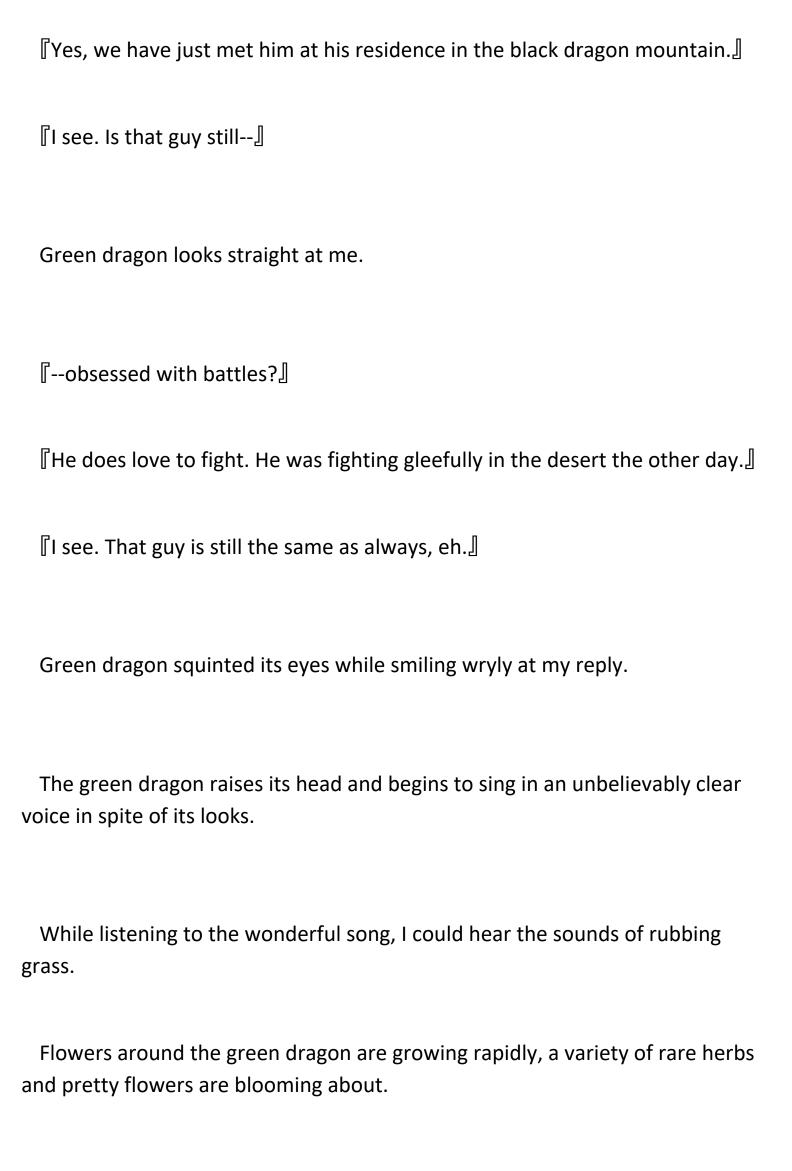
There's other civil official-type attendants around too, but all of them are unfamiliar faces.
Since the previous members were apparently annihilated during the divine punishment, it must have been reshuffled.
A scalekin dragon priestess is also present in this room, but she appears to be a personnel of this country, not an attendant of Hero Meiko.
Her face is well-featured, but rather than beautiful, the word dignified fits her more.
"I wanna have a match too."
"Yeah, you just can't get enough of battles to the limit."
I got a slight headache to hear Rusus and Fifi's battle junkie-like remarks.
"I shall guide you if you wish to fight the guardian dragon."
The dragon priestess easily gave her permission.

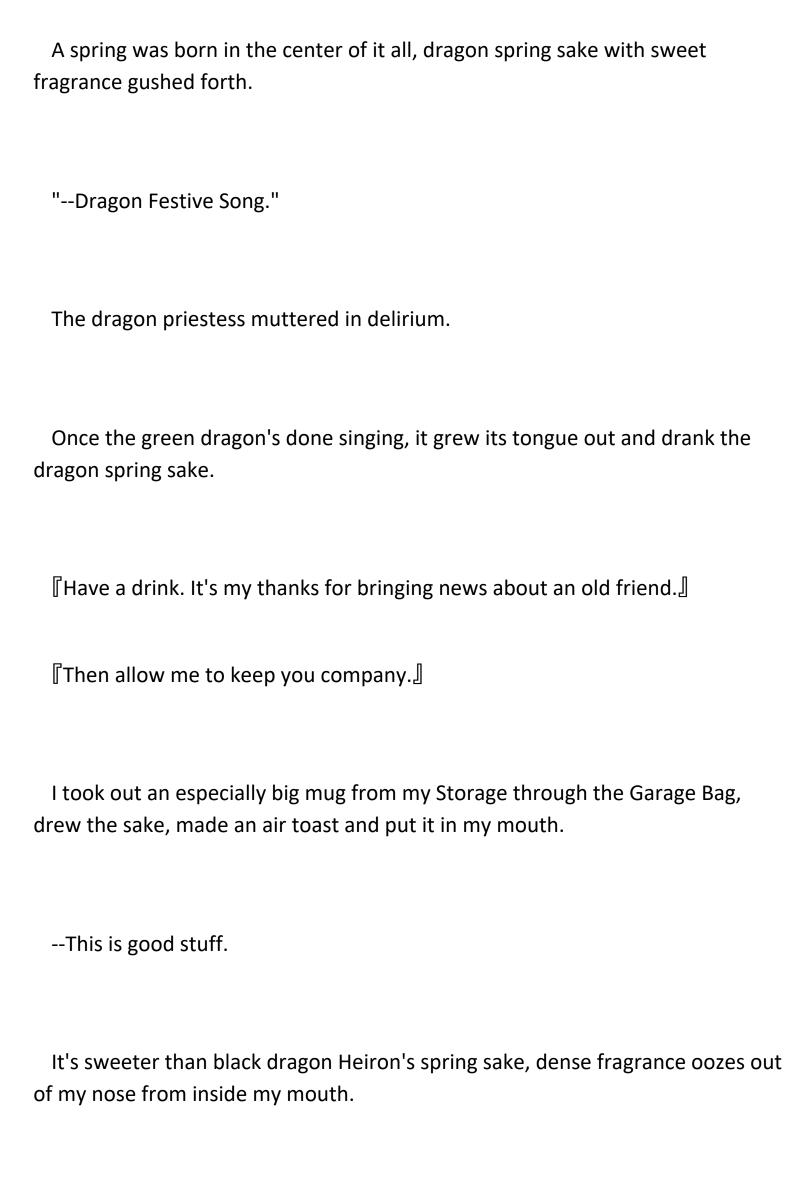












The others were also eager to have a drink, so I handed them their own glasses after getting the permission from the green dragon.

The dragon priestess who looked the most eager said, "This will be the temple's treasure!", and held it close in her bosom without having even a sip.

I asked the green dragon if it wanted snack to go along with the sake as my thanks--

[Marine products would be nice. Either fresh kraken or Shell Tuna is fine.]

I have some kraken with me. But not Shell Tuna, would you be alright with whales?

[Whales? Do you mean the Northern Gluttonous Fish? Those things eat even my breath, and are quick to dive deep, I'm impressed you could catch them. I've always wanted to taste one. Gimme some.]

I took some huge slices of kraken and whales out of my Garage Bag, roasted them and gave them to the green dragon.

Everyone besides Liza was exaggerating when they were surprised at the spilling plates, but when you talk about dragon spring sake, steak on iron plates naturally has to be there.

We enjoyed the feast with green dragon and went down the mountain came dusk.

After hearing the dragon priestess talking about, "A huge monster that challenged the green dragon and was driven away" while we were going down the mountain, Rusus and Fifi went off to fight with it.

They're true to their desires, or rather, those girls' people sure love to fight.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

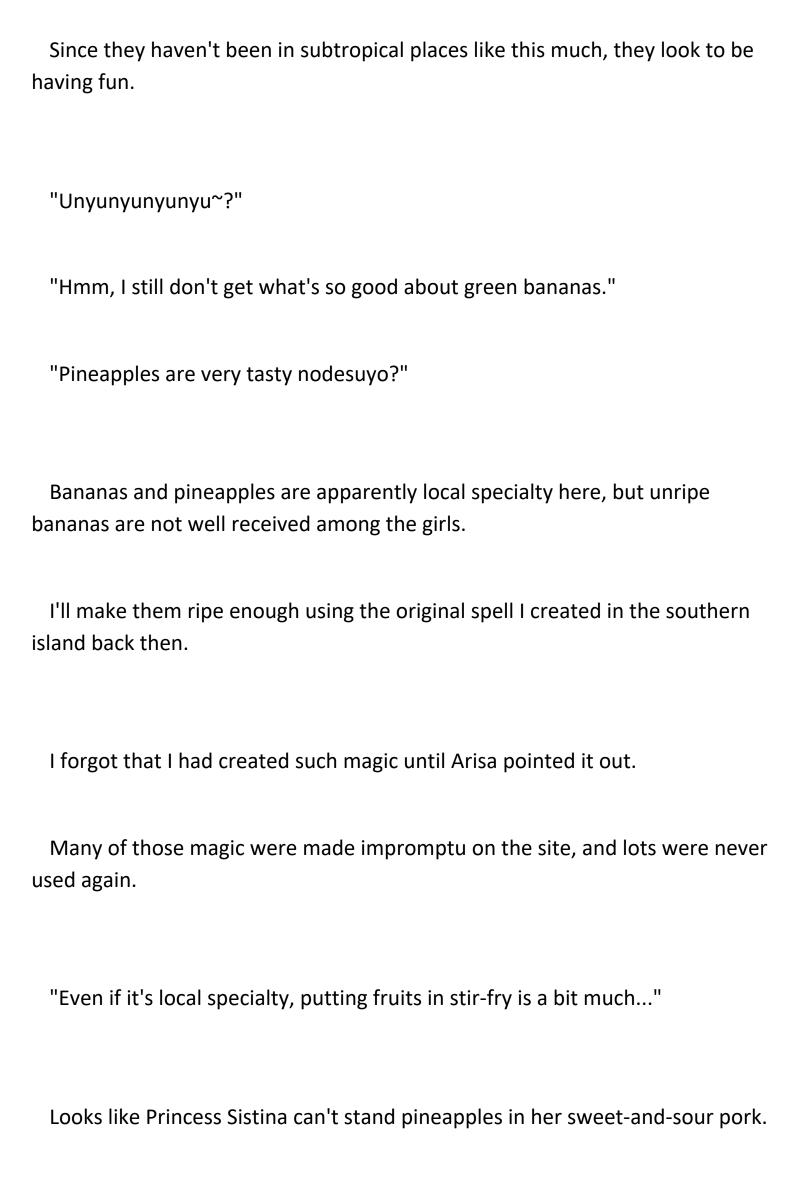


"There's so many unusual looking ingredients here."

"Master, found lots of weird fruits, so I report."

Lulu and Nana said so while looking around the stalls and booths.

Since Rusus and Fifi were gone, I'm currently having a tour around the town with the girls, it's been awhile since the last one.







Arisa frowned after having a sip.
The stall owner asked Arisa if she wanted honey with it while laughing to see that.
Seems like sugar is expensive in this country.
This is my first time drinking chocolate drink with honey, it's a novel idea.
The taste itself is good.
"Master, it's the market over there! They're selling lots of dried fruits there!"
Lulu is in high spirits.
Dried fruits that are relatively expensive in Shiga Kingdom are very cheap here in this country.
Lulu appeared to have a soft spot on [Affordable], she went around one stall after another with Arisa.

I bought a huge amount of dried fruits that Lulu took a fancy on, and shared them with the brownies at the solitary island palace, and Echigoya Firm's folks.

Of course, I shared some to Core Two, demon lord Shizuka, and the former demon lord fox girl too.



"--No suspicious activity huh."

I went to Saga Empire after enjoying our first normal sightseeing tour after a long while.

After all, the person who was acting suspiciously during the vampire incident at Tokiswolk Kingdom was from Saga Empire.

Tactician Touya and the plain-faced reincarnated person who have markers on them are happily managing an alchemy shop together at a town near their hideout.

Looking at their expressions, tactician Touya had this sour look like that of a just-married couple, but the wife, the plain-faced reincarnated person, was all smiles like she was truly happy.

Please, do live on in peace without holding some unnecessary ambitions from now on.

The mastermind behind him hasn't shown themselves like usual.

They're probably lying in wait somewhere while keeping a lookout on me.

Just in case, I'm sending a sesame seed-sized surveillance golem to tactician Touya and the plain-faced reincarnated person's alchemy store.

The new emperor seems to be pretty busy putting up a new system in the empire after his enthronement, doesn't seem like he can afford to meddle with other countries.

After we've finished checking on the administration, we walked down the imperial capital's streets.

I was thinking of gathering info about the rather mysterious Hero Fuu while we were here at the capital.

Since he's not in my Map, he's probably somewhere I don't know about after leaving the imperial capital.





There were records about [Vampire Demon Lord] who could produce more vampires through curses.

Though since the method required an [Artifact] that originated from the demon god along with the demon lord's Unique Skill, we probably don't have to take that into considerations in this matter.

According to them, the hero who defeated the [Vampire Demon Lord] also destroyed the artifact.

"Being told that it's impossible makes you all the more curious instead."

"Hnn, agreed."

Arisa said so on our way back from the scholar's residence.

"For examples?"

"They were bitten by bugs right? Maybe that was the vector that caused people to turn into vampires?"

"Possibly."

Mia nodded at the haphazard guess that Arisa said with a serious expression on her face.

It might be possible if we were talking about normal diseases, but I don't see any suspicious insects through Miasma Sight, and it's not like the vampires here are like their earthen counterpart as they need to do rituals to create more of them in this world.

"We've been introduced to several more scholars, let's try visiting them all for now."

I told the two and went to one scholar residence after another.

Unfortunately, all the scholars agreed that insects and water can't be the source of contagion.

One of the scholars told me that there was a case where a vampire came out of Saga Empire's [Bloodsucking Labyrinth] and escaped outside the empire's territory.

The scholar postulated that maybe that vampire built numerous settlements in monster domains while stealthily increase their number before attacking Tokiswolk Kingdom.

I think this hypothesis seems more probable than Arisa's for this incident.
Checking monster domains inside and around Saga Empire on my Map, there really are several vampire settlements in them.
For the time being, there isn't a single Vampire Lord around.
I ignore the settlements that are living peacefully and report the ones that dependent of the problematic activities like pillaging to the neighboring empire's garrisons.
"Oh right! You mentioned a demon lord that records the world's secrets on slates with his Unique Skill before right. Can't we find the culprit on those slates?"
"Good idea."
Mia's eyes are sparkling at Arisa's idea.
"It probably won't work y'know?"
In the first place, if we knew that much, I would have known about the mastermind's identity and location too by now.

"Huh, why?"

"Just like news on televisions, only events that piqued the record keeper's interests are written on the slates."

Only stuff the troll demon lord found interesting are written on those slates, so the information there is quite inclined to one-side.

After finishing our business in Saga Empire, we tried checking on the slates since we might find some info.

"Yup, it's a miss."

"Nn."

Checking the slates, as I thought, there's no important info.

The part about Vampire Lord' atrocities and Rusus and Fifi's thrilling battles were written on around 300 slates, but important info like [Where the vampires came from] or [What was their goal attacking a country] was completely absent.

There are records about Hero Yuki beating the Land King that hard turned into undead at Sania Kingdom before the Vampire Lord part, but there is nothing written after the Vampire Lord part until Rusus and Fifi's arena battles.

Looks like Rusus and Fifi are the most recent favorites of the troll demon lord.

As it all depends on what the troll demon lord find interesting at the time, these slates are only useful for additional stuff that "we're in luck if it's recorded."

Well, from this investigation I can almost safely conclude that my fear about the vampire incident being "A plot by someone hiding in the darkness of Saga Empire" to be unfounded, so it's time to get back on clearing trials.

As for the investigation about the goal of Saga Empire's royalty found dead at Tokiswolk Kingdom, I've forwarded the written report about it to Shiga Kingdom's king and prime minister through Hikaru, I'll leave all additional investigations to them.

If I don't limit my involvements to [Catastrophes that are out of the local people's hands], I'd be gradually burdened with more things I need to do, eventually turning it into a literal death march.

Now then, next we're heading to the city-state Kariswolk where the main temple of God Karion resides, also known as, the [Sage's Tower].

I'm looking forward to touring the [Sage's Tower] more than the trial itself.

16-52. Sage's Tower (1)

Satou here. One of my friends from university days told me that only geniuses are capable of solving problems left unsolved by ordinary men their whole life.

However, even if it's geniuses who overcome the last step, I think it's the persistent efforts of us ordinary men that tread down the path right before that last step.



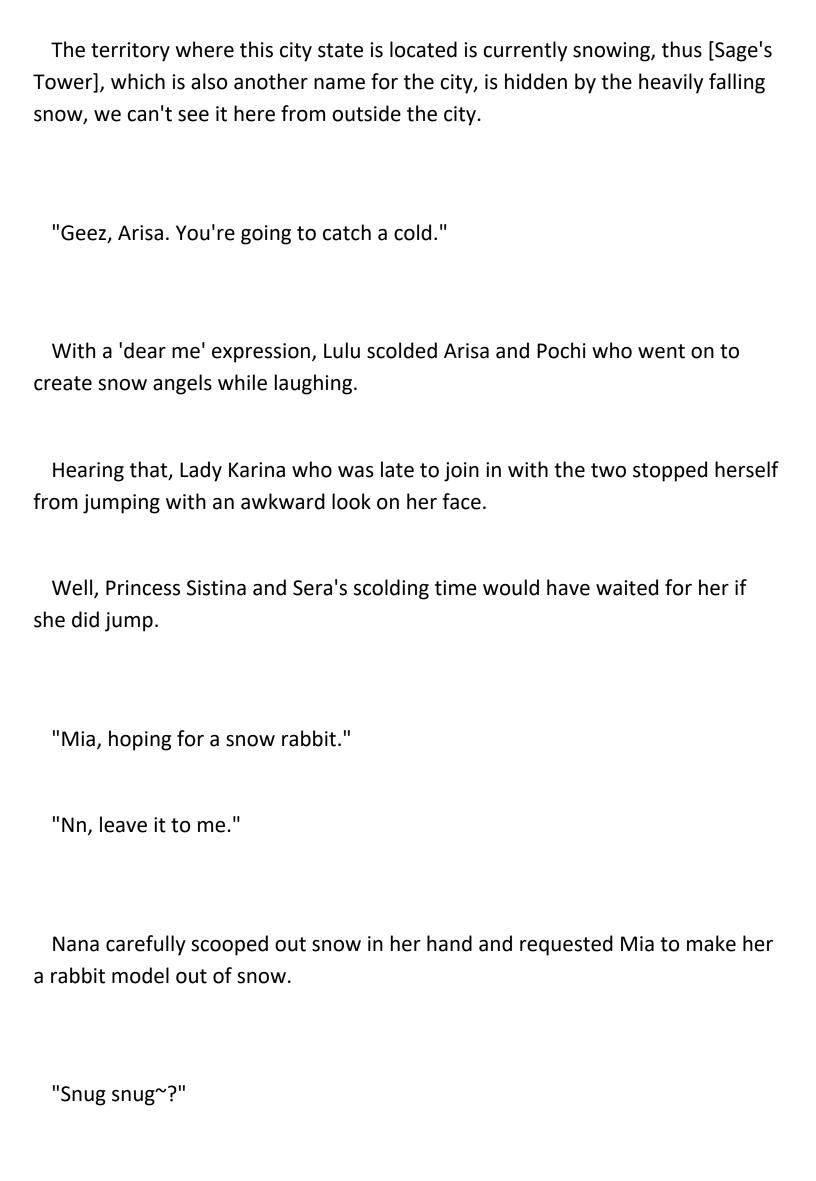
"Waa, snow country~"

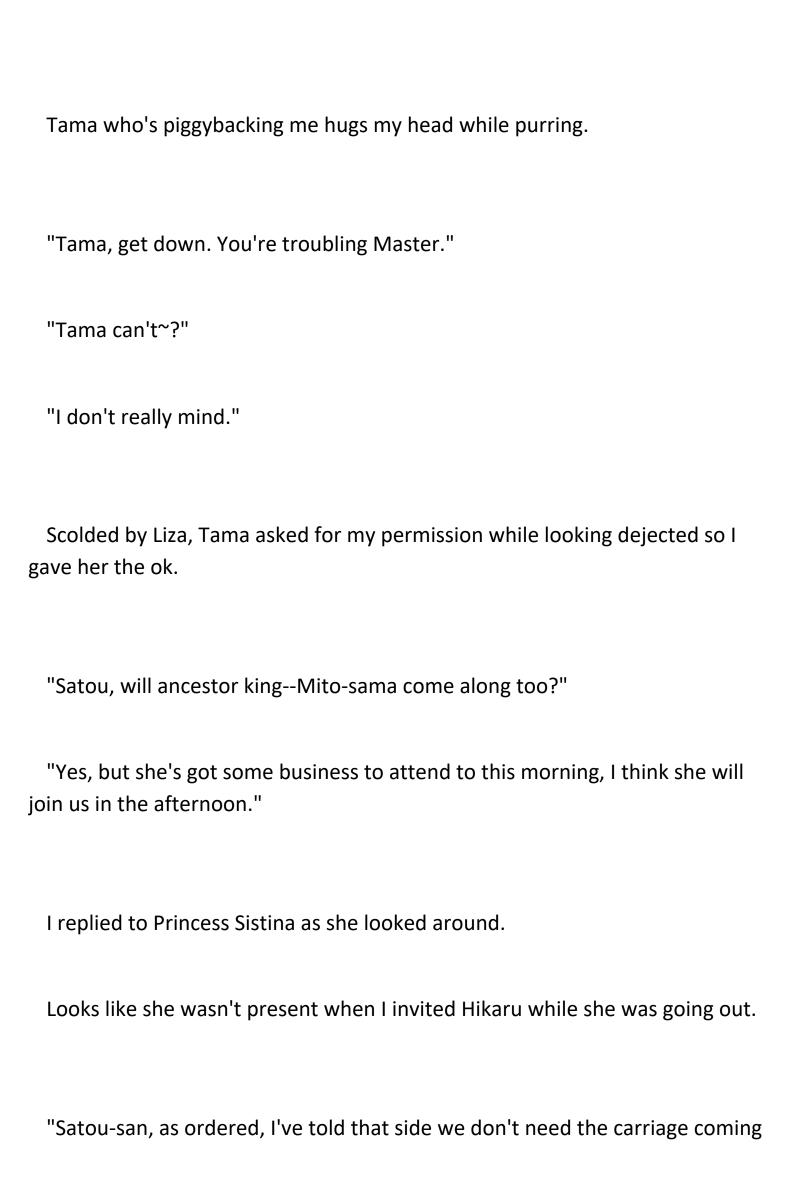
"The snow is bow-wow all over the places nodesu!"

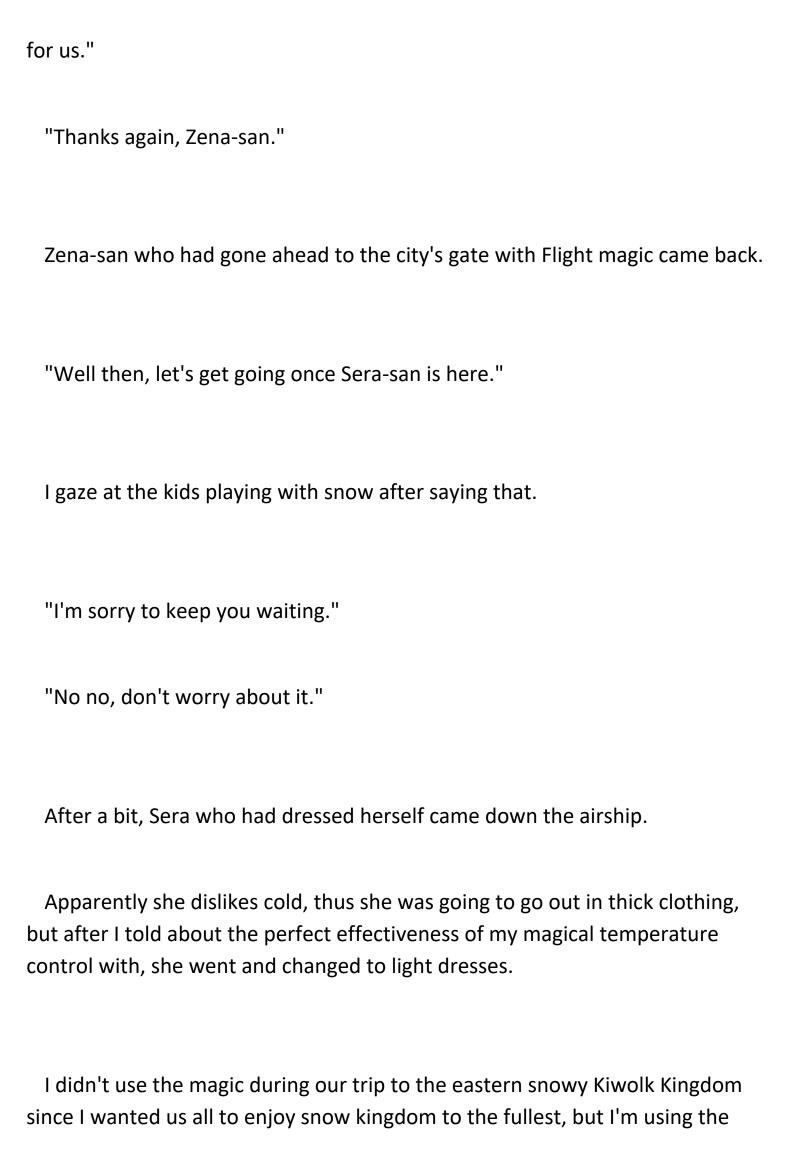
Arisa and Pochi jumped into the snow like puppies who had just seen snow for the first time.

We arrived at the city state Kariswolk where Karion main temple is located.

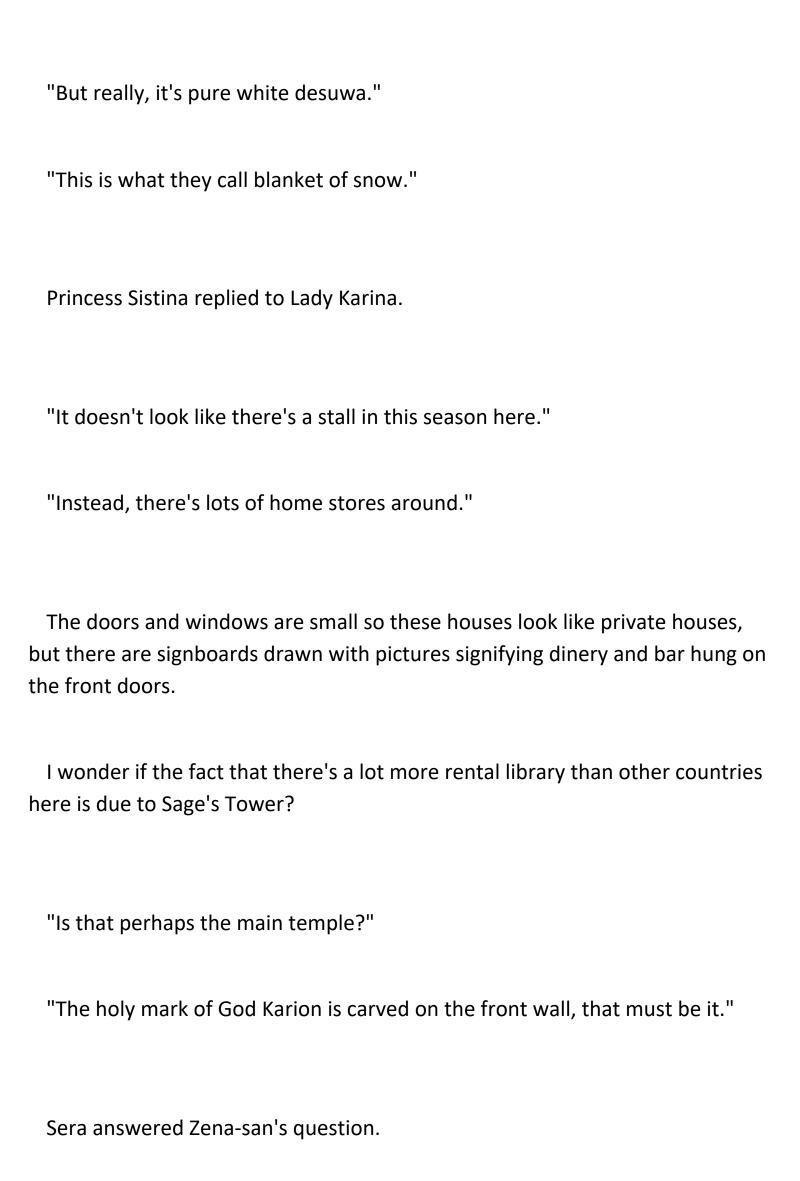
I realized that I was overthinking about [God's Backdoors] from previous trials, and so I went with all members who had times on this occasion.





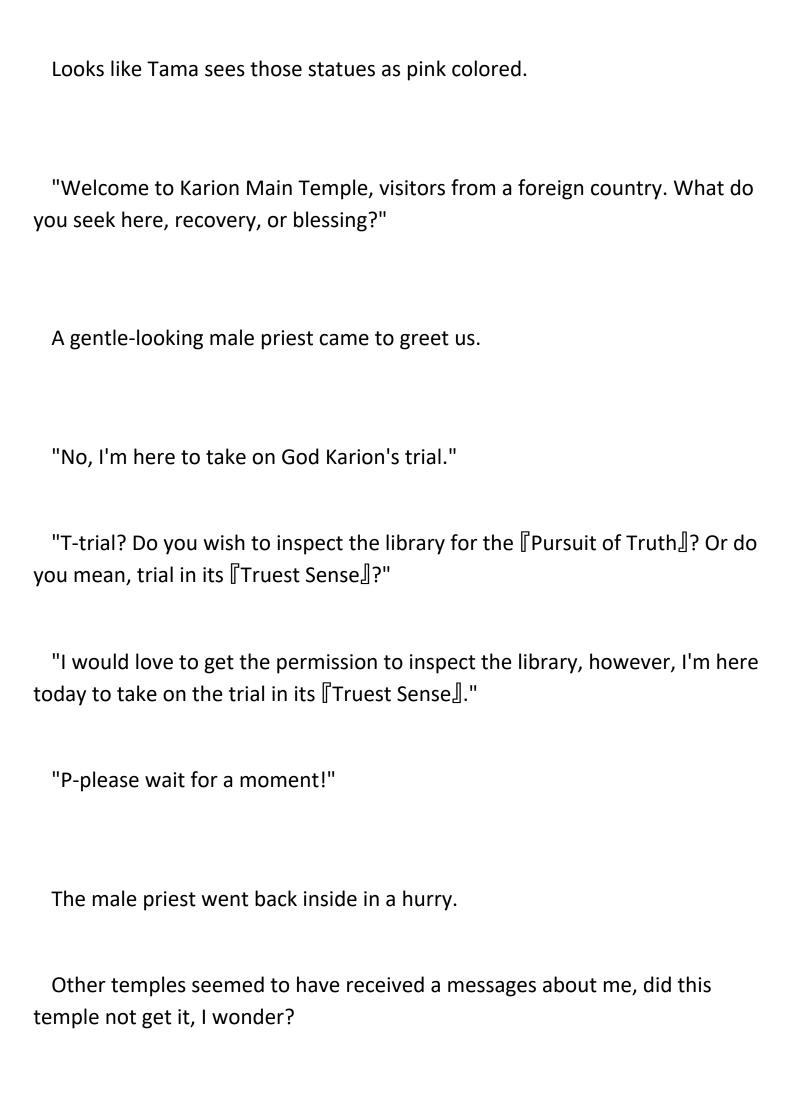


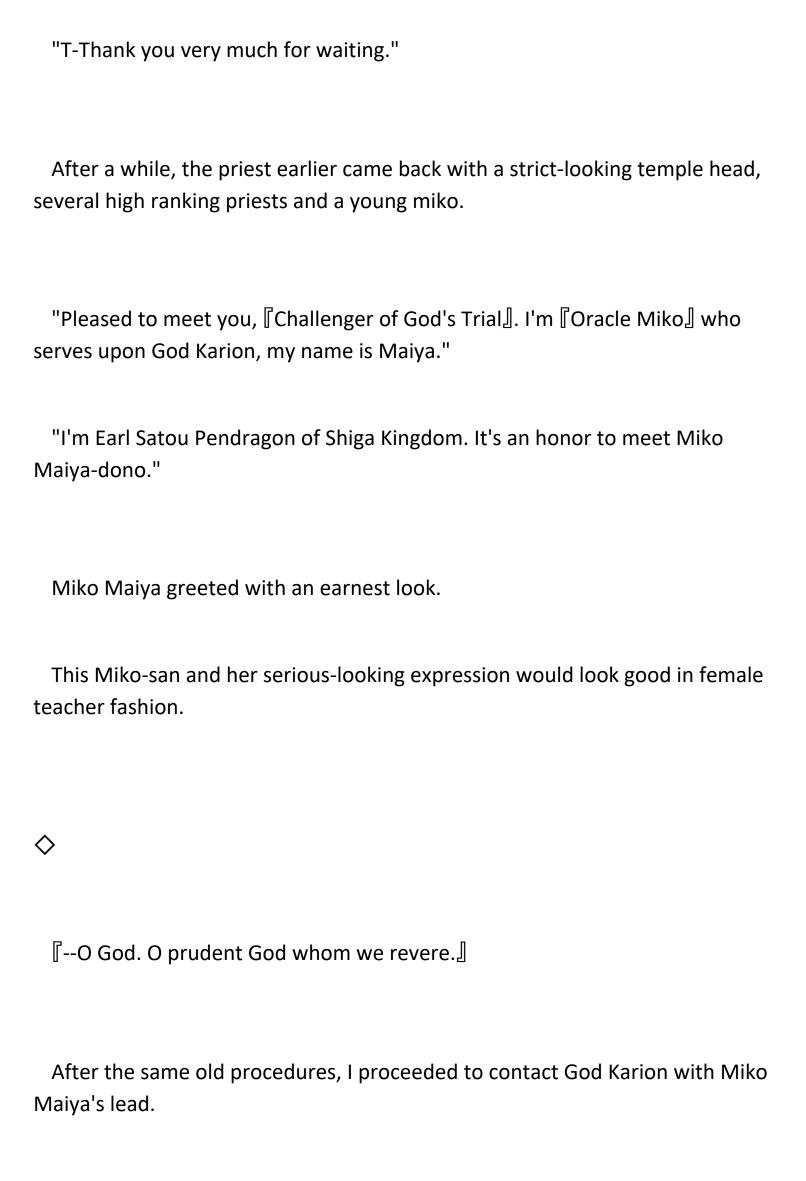


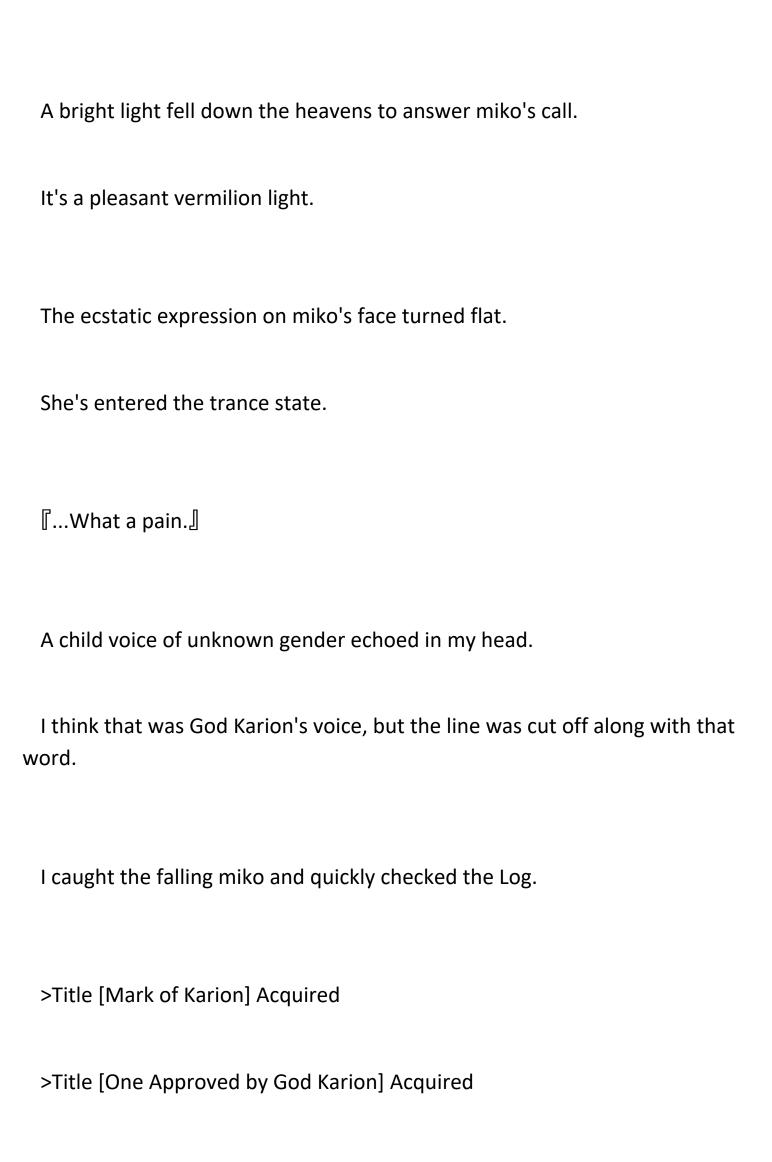


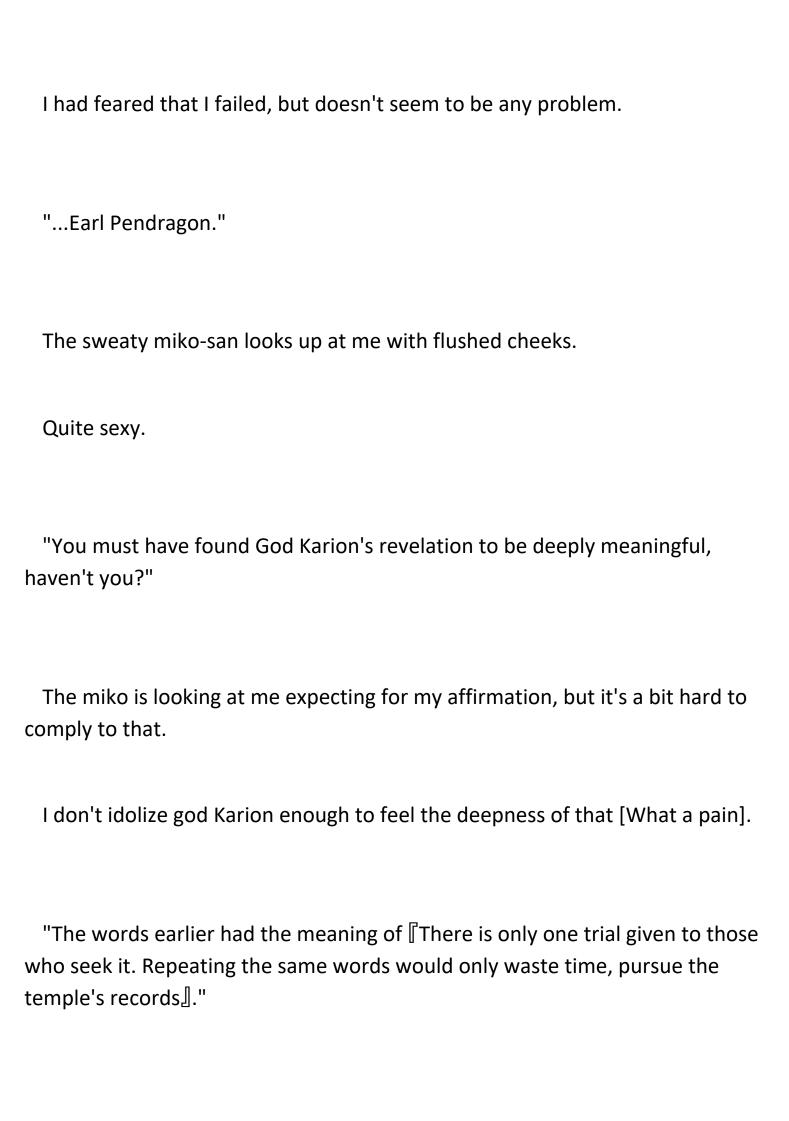


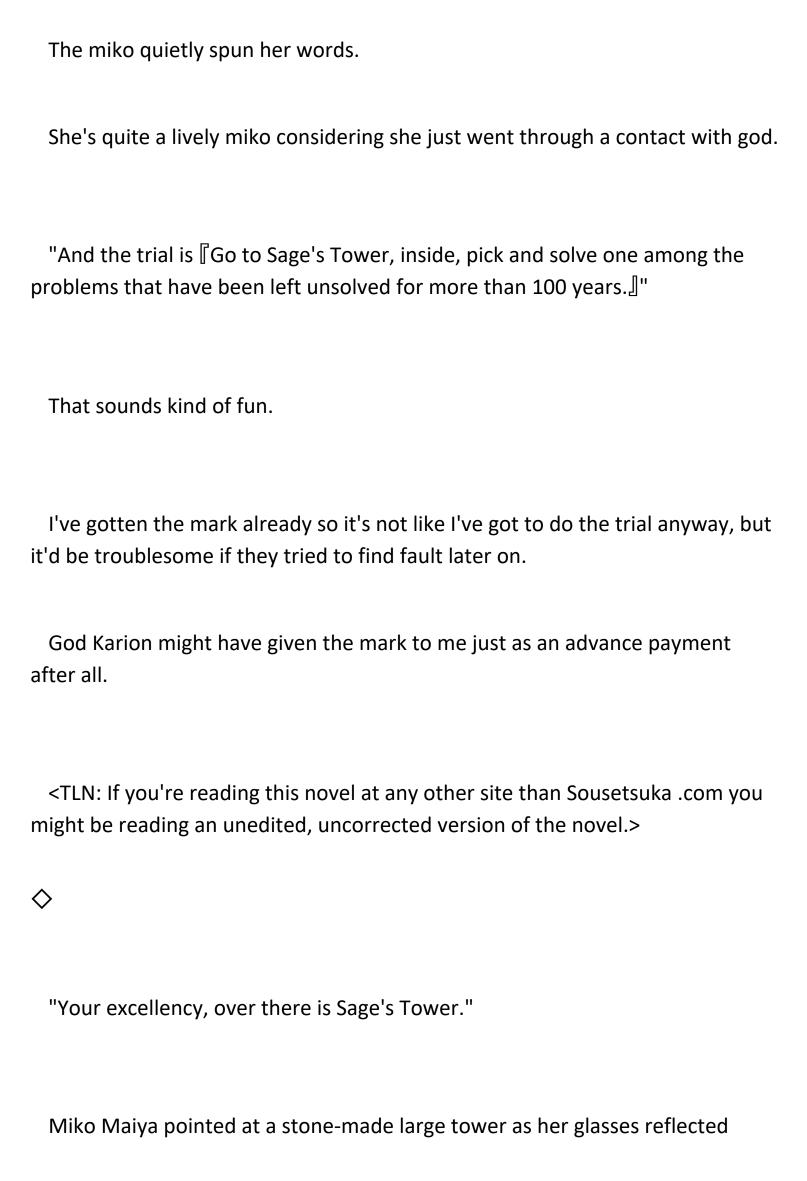












light.
The miko has taken upon herself to show us around the Sage's Tower, but for some reason she's changed her outfit from [Oracle Miko] to [Female Teacher Fashion]. Complete with triangular glasses.
Apparently, it's a traditional outfit introduced by a hero donned whenever she visits the Sage's Tower.
"No matter how you look at it, the character-making is way too much~"
"Nn, excessive."
Arisa and Mia had that conversation behind my back.
Well, I'm actually in agreement here, but the tight skirt looks very much perfect on Miko Maiya, so I have no intention to point out the excessiveness.
Feels like Arisa and the girls would cosplay as one if I carelessly blurted it out.
Inside a building made of stone at the base of the tower, scholars and students are exchanging opinions in the entrance hall and passages here and

there.

[According to the documents from Furu Empire's era, the magic circle inside fire wands is--]

Fundamental differences in mana supply between magic cannons that exist today and magic cannons from Magic Kingdom Lalakie--

I proclaim that we could clear up monster dominions without wasting human resources by making use of Soul Art considered forbidden!

To produce clean water through water gems in desert areas, the mane of kelpie as a catalyst would be---

There's a lot of discussions related to military technology for such a place of learning.

It's probably because the close proximity of monster threats here, that military technology dedicated to strengthen city defence feels close to people in a different way than in modern times.

"Pink~"

"There's statues over here too nodesu!"

"They look different from the statues we saw at the temple."

Tama and the girls found rock salt statues scattered in the entrance hall with their sharp eyes.
"From here on is where the scholars are doing their research, therefore I would have to ask for a minimum number of people"
Miko Maiya told us so in front of a spiral staircase at the deepest part of the entrance hall.
Arisa, Mia and Princess Sistina, aka the researchers, are coming with us, while the other members have been tasked by me to trail-blaze stores that sell tasty stuff intended for scholars and students around the tower.
We climb up the stairs to the topmost part of the tower with miko Maiya leading.
Since Arisa and the girls complained that they were tired halfway through, I created [< <floating boards="">>] with Force magic and put them on board.</floating>
And then we came to a room at the top.
"Miko Maiya, if you're here that means that man is?"
"Yes, Sage Kanryu. This gentleman here is Earl Satou Pendragon, he's taken on

God Karion's trial."
The kind-looking old man with white beard appears to be a sage.
"Welcome, Satou-kun. I hope to witness you work out an answer to the unsolved problems here."
Sage Kanryu smiled profoundly as he said that.
Now then, what kind of problems are left unsolved for 100 years?
I would prefer if it doesn't take too long to solve.
16-53. Sage's Tower (2)
Satou here. Keeping stuff tidy and in order, be it data or things, so you can readily get them anytime you need it is a form of talent, I think. You tend to forget where you put things right when you need to get them, don't you.
"Are all these?"

I reflexively muttered that when I looked up at huge piles of old scrolls and books in front of me.

We were led to a room beyond Sage Karyu's, the principal, room.

I'm here to solve an [unsolved problem that has remained so for 100 years] as part of God Karion's Trial, but looking at these piles makes me get cold feet a bit.

Well, since I'm only supposed to solve one problem among these, there's no need to get so worked up.

"The number of problems themselves doesn't even reach 30. Most of these are investigations and memos left by the past scholars."

Sage Karyu told me so while stroking his long white beard.

"These here are the original scripts, but you can find the copies in the Great Library in this tower, while the problems themselves have been carved on the pedestals of the red salt statues on the first floor so anyone could read it if they so desire." I see, the statues in the entrance hall carry such a role huh.

According to Sage Karyu, there are other red salt statues carrying a similar role situated in God Zaikuon main temple's chapel and inside the city itself.

As those statues have been reinforced with earth magic, they're holding up fine being outdoors.

"Then, maybe it's a good idea to look around the statues before picking a problem?"

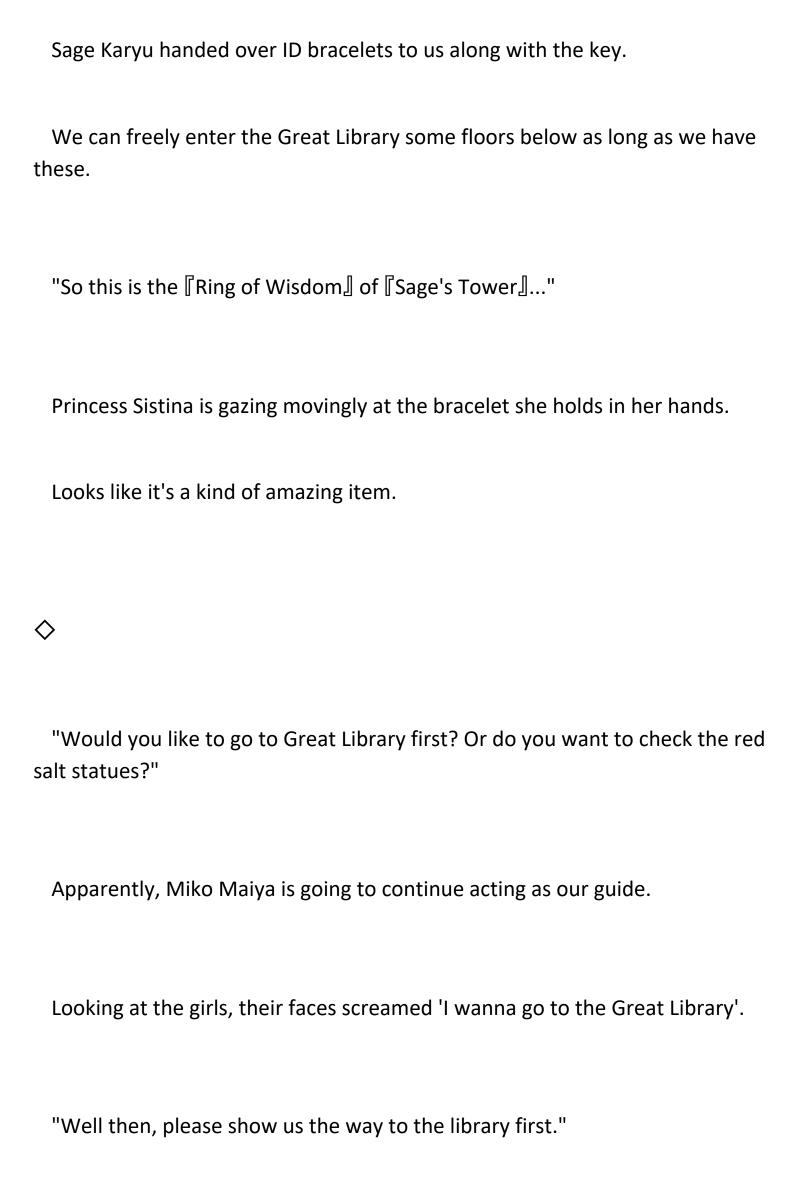
"Nn, more efficient."

"Umu, umu. That's exactly right, missies."

Sage Karyu smiled as he replied to Arisa and Mia's conversation.

"I shall give the key to this library to Satou-kun. You can get to this library from the passages. You can read the documents here anytime you want, however you're not allowed to take them out with you. As their value cannot be understated, take care not to damage them."

"Yes, I will take the utmost care."



We're headed to the Great Library two floors below Sage Karyu's room.

Three levels of this huge tower are filled with bookshelves, and one of those levels is an archive that's not open to public. It's not an archive of banned books, the archive is housing incomplete written memo and book collections of scholars that didn't have a successor. According to my Map, the forbidden library here is located deep underground.

"Lots."

"More than master's library even."

"I think there's about as many books as both the Royal Academy's and Forbidden Archive's libraries put together?"

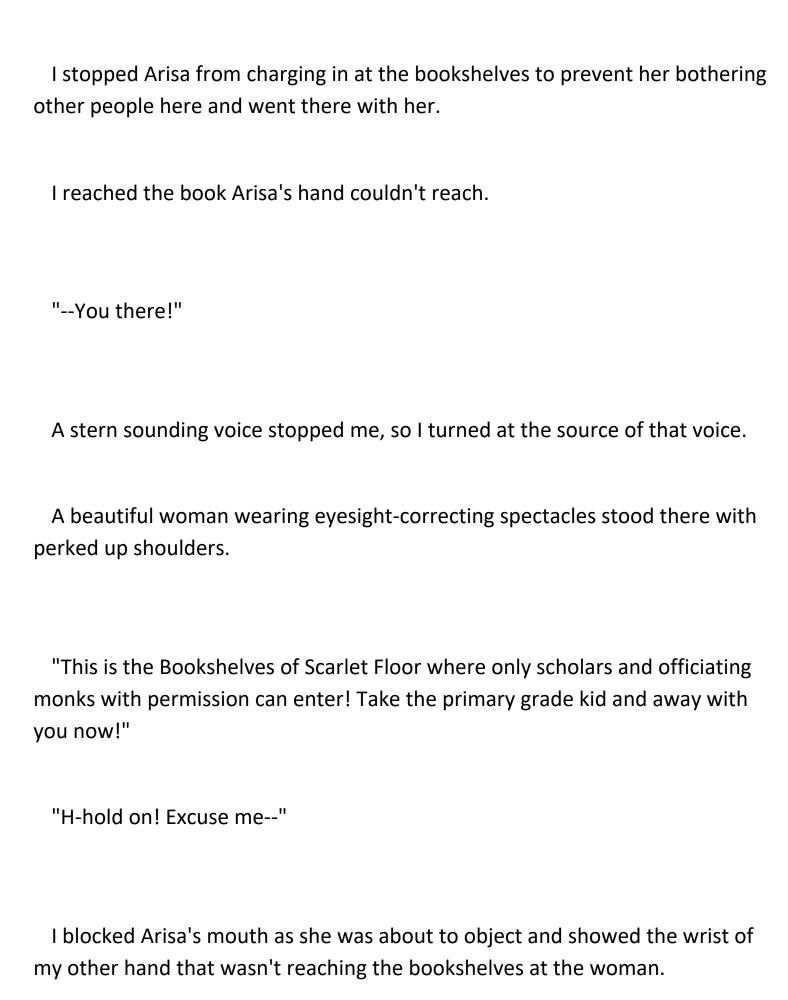
The girls gave their impressions while looking around at the bookshelves.

The amount of books befit the name Great Library indeed.

It did feel a bit odd for a small City-state nation Kariswolk to have more books than a big kingdom such as Shiga Kingdom, but I got the reason why after checking the author's names of these books with my Map Search.

A great majority of them are books written by scholars belonging here and books written and donated by scholars who were staying here for a time.







It probably would have taken some time to convince her with just these bracelets.
"Please give your orders to me or the librarian at the desk if you need a book. As an apology for my impoliteness earlier, I shall make frantic efforts to provide assistants."
Well, thanks to this little incident, we managed to get acquainted with librarian-san amiably, all's well.
"Hey, how many books here can we borrow at once?"
"I'm very sorry, but the books here cannot be lent. Please read them at the reading room, or hire transcribers affiliated with Great Library if you wish to make a copy."
"Can the chained books over there be transcribed too?"
Princess Sistina points her fingers at bookshelves and books that have been chained down to prevent theft.
There's even an iron grill in front of the bookshelves.

"Those books are prohibited from getting transcribed. You can write the part you have memorized, however, transcribing straight from the bookshelves is prohibited."

According to the librarian, they're not of banned books kind, however the books contain dangerous knowledge that could prove bad were they taken out indiscreetly, thus the spread of information has been limited.

"I'll be heading to the entrance hall to check on the statues' pedestals there, Arisa and you girls, are you staying here?"

"Un, I'll do it later."

"Library won't run away."

After thinking a bit, Arisa said so and Mia nodded at her reply.

"...That's right. It's not going anywhere."

Princess Sistina, the former master of Forbidden Library, looked to be a bit regretful to part from here, but she forcefully convinced herself about it and went with us.

\Diamond
"『What is miasma?』,『What is mana?』,『What is spirit?』,『What is a soul?』 These are problems that have existed since the founding of 『Sage's Tower』 huh."
"They're intriguing and all, but there's no way we could solve one in a day."
"Nn, difficult."
Since these weren't recorded in the books the elves had, I should just leave these fundamental questions to the researchers.
"What do you think about this one?"
"Did you find something good?"
"Look."
Beckoned by Princess Sistina, Arisa and Mia came to her.
"『For what reason do Labyrinths exist?』 huh?"

--

As a dungeon master myself, the mystery hit a bit too close to home. There were numerous theories about it contained in the books at Shiga Kingdom, but nothing was decisive. Let's memo it down as a candidate. Perhaps I could get an answer if I asked Dungeon Core about this. "These ones here are similar, just replace labyrinths with monsters and demons." It's easy to come up with these questions after all. There was nothing about City Cores, since its existence is hidden to public. And so, the girls and I continued to read unsolved problems carved on the pedestals.

Curiously enough, there was no stuff like [Who made labyrinths?], [Who made skills?], or [For what reason do levels exist?].

In a world where gods exist in reality, people probably think that gods created

those.
Considering how God Karion was like during our conversation back then, doesn't seem like they'll answer a question after all.
"『What's the difference between demon lords that get revived and those that don't?』 eh Master, do you know about this?"
"I wonder?"
As far as I know, only two demon lords have gotten revived, the [Golden Wild Boar King] and the [Dog-head Ancient King].
Their common feature is that both had [True Demon Lord] title, but if that were really the requirement for it, it'd have been made clear once I checked Saga Empire's documents, so it's probably not that.
The Boar King was revived with the help of demon lord adherents and greater demons, but the Dog-head seemed like he just revived on his own at Selbira Labyrinth, thus it's difficult to declare that these revivals need other people carrying out a revival ceremony.
"Master, this is"

Arisa was at a loss for words while pointing at a pedestal next to her.
Written there is, "What is the condition for the demon lords to manifest in this world?"
I could give the answer to that right here and now, but this is one unsolved problem that absolutely has to remain unsolved.
A tragedy on the level of witch hunt would befall reincarnated people if the truth were to be known.
Yup, I never saw this problem, nuh uh.
"Satou."
I went to Mia as she called.
"Intriguing."
She's pointing at a pedestal written with "How does one achieve chantless magic?"
Princess Sistina who came after me was also piqued enough to say, "Let's get

to the bottom of this!", however, just like how chant shortening could only be achieved through skills, I think chantless magic could only be done through Unique Skill like in my and Arisa's cases.

"That's not necessarily true, no? Like, you can use magic without skills if you work hard on it, right. If you can act as the proxy that does the magic calculation instead of skills, perhaps you could do the same with the chanting part?"

Arisa insisted so.

"You're right. It does sound intriguing, wanna give it a try?"

"Try."

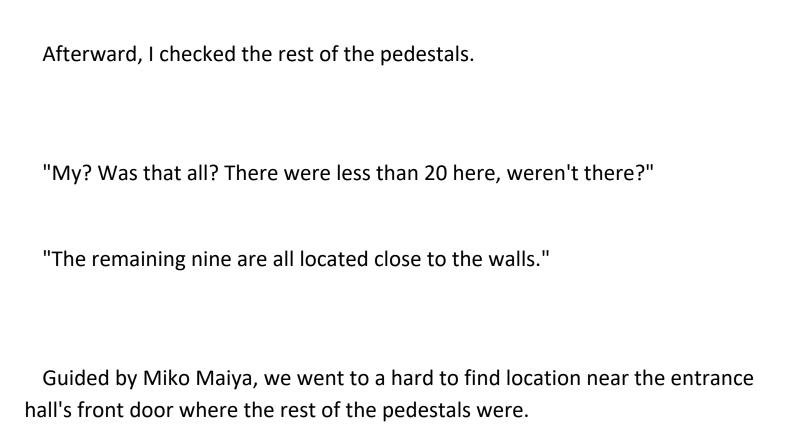
"Mia-sama, would you allow me to accompany you in your research?"

"Nn, welcome."

Mia and Princess Sistina seemed eager when I tried rousing their interest.

"Tell me if you need materials, I'll transcribe it for you."

"Thanks."



"The ones here are more like subject matters than problems."

The statue up there looks kinda ominous.

"[The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations], [Did level and skill not exist during the creation of the world?], [About the relationship between modern magic and Demon God], [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead]... These are all interesting too."

I'm a bit piqued by this [The transition from primeval magic to modern magic and variations], feels like it can be solved relatively easily.

Some of the other keywords are curious too. The second and the third ones are quite interesting, however, the fourth one, the possibility of turning undead back into living being is quite intriguing. If it can be done, I could maybe turn the kids who had become vampires at Tokiswolk Kingdom back into humans. There has been a case of a normal creature that had been transformed into a monster turning back into an ordinary creature, in the form of Princess Doris's pet bird, Hisui, so I don't think it's impossible. For now, for the trial I'll check out these three, "The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations", "For what reason do labyrinths exist?", and "Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead", and see if I could easily solve one. "Master, look at this." Arisa called me when she saw the last pedestal. It's a labyrinth-related theme.

"[How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?]

huh"
True, it looks good to be a research theme.
Since there's no way to test and verify things without the help of a [Dungeon Master], it's understandable how this problem remained unsolved for more than 100 years.
This one looks to be quite easy to solve.
Though, if I did, people would then question the source of information and its authenticity, which is just troublesome.
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\Diamond
"Good work, Master."
"Welcom~"
"Welfomf bafh rarorefu."



Arisa sounded upset at first, but then she recalled some kind of cuisine from earth and nodded.



I'll start with the lightly seasoned looking Rui-be.

Exactly like how it looks, it tastes like sherbet when you first put it in your mouth, but once inside, the heat thaws it out, spreading rich sashimi-like oily flavor in your mouth.

It tastes a bit like frozen salmon, really good. I could get addicted to this.

"This is good."

"Right~?"

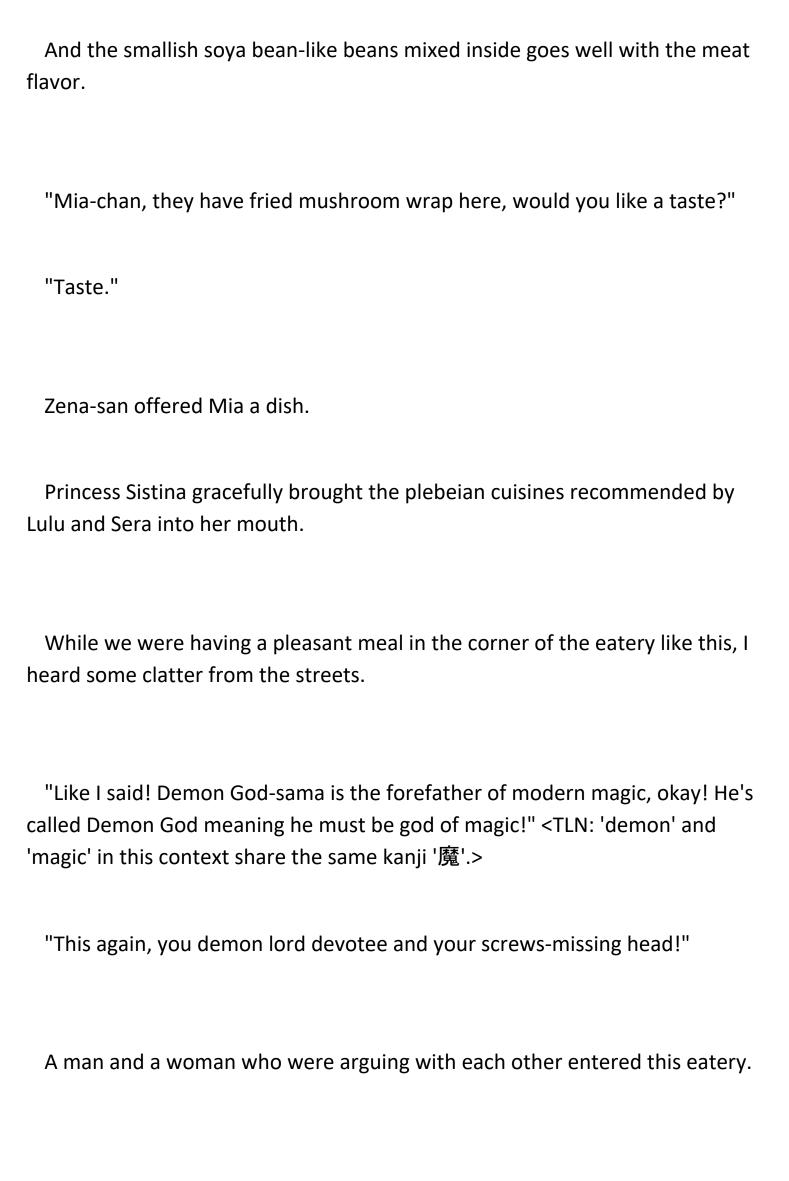
Arisa looked a bit triumphant.

Losing to the gaze of Pochi who was standing next to her with an excited look on her face, I reached out to the hodge-podge.

"This one is pretty good too."

"Yes, nanodesu!"

The flavor is a bit too dense, but the spare-rib-like texture from the pressure cooking is delicious.



The man is quite handsome himself, but the woman is one such beauty that was a bit wasted on her underling-like speech pattern.

Putting aside Lulu as a special case, the woman has this transient beauty that wouldn't look pale in comparison to the girls in my party.

"I've been saying, yer' wrong! Even if I'm a believer of Demon God-sama, I ain't no adherent of demons and demon lords! To begin with, there ain't no reliable literatures that say demons are Demon God's familiar!"

"Hmph, have you forgotten about Lalakie Monument left behind in the ruins of a civilization that existed after Lalakie civilization from the age of gods, and the epitaph found at Golden Tower of Toro Kuro!"

That's quite an interesting topic.

As the AR readings have guaranteed that the woman isn't a demon lord adherent, I stand up from my seat to get in touch with the two.

"Hello there, if it's fine with you two, could I join in your talk?"

16-54. Sage's Tower (3)

Satou Here. Reading through myths on earth, it's not rare for gods that had been worshiped since time immemorial to degenerate into lower-ranked evil gods by later belief that got popular.

And, perhaps such thing isn't an exception even in another world where gods physically exist?

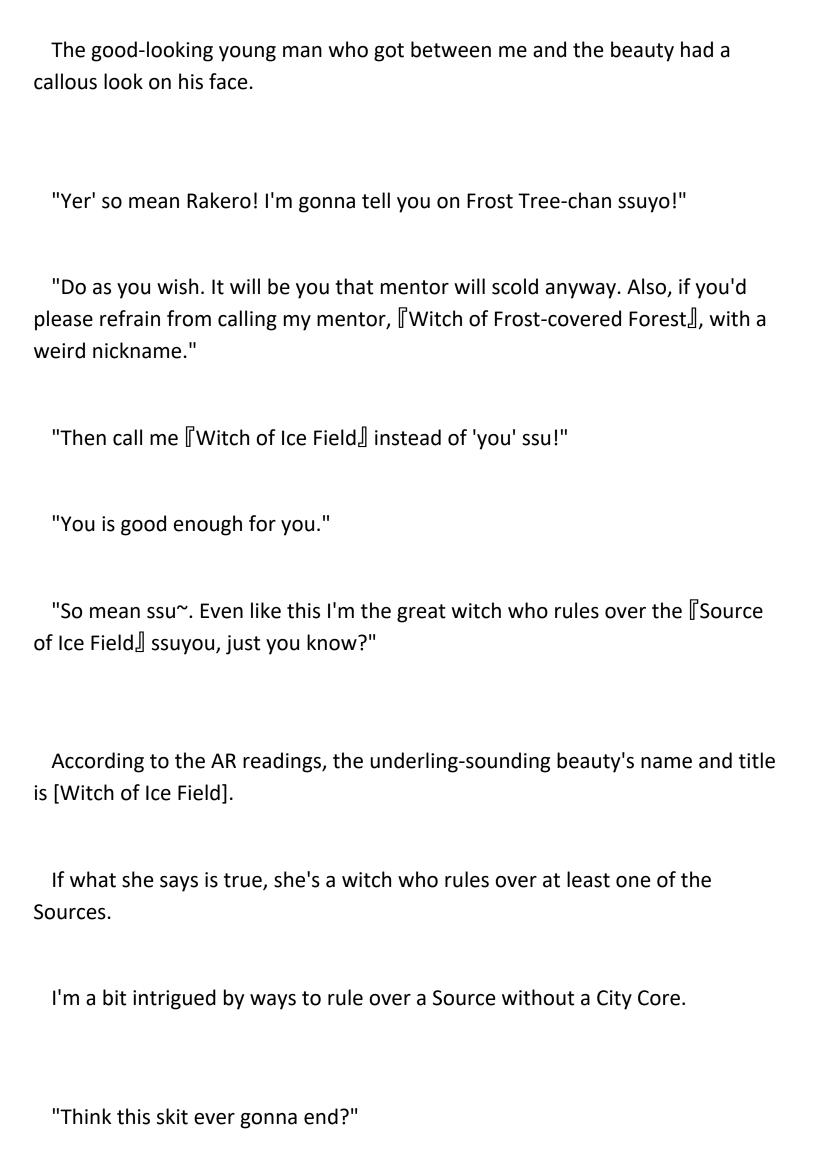


"A pick up? Ya picking me up? Ooh, yer' makin' me blush! It was worth it turning into a teen after a whole lap ssuyo!"

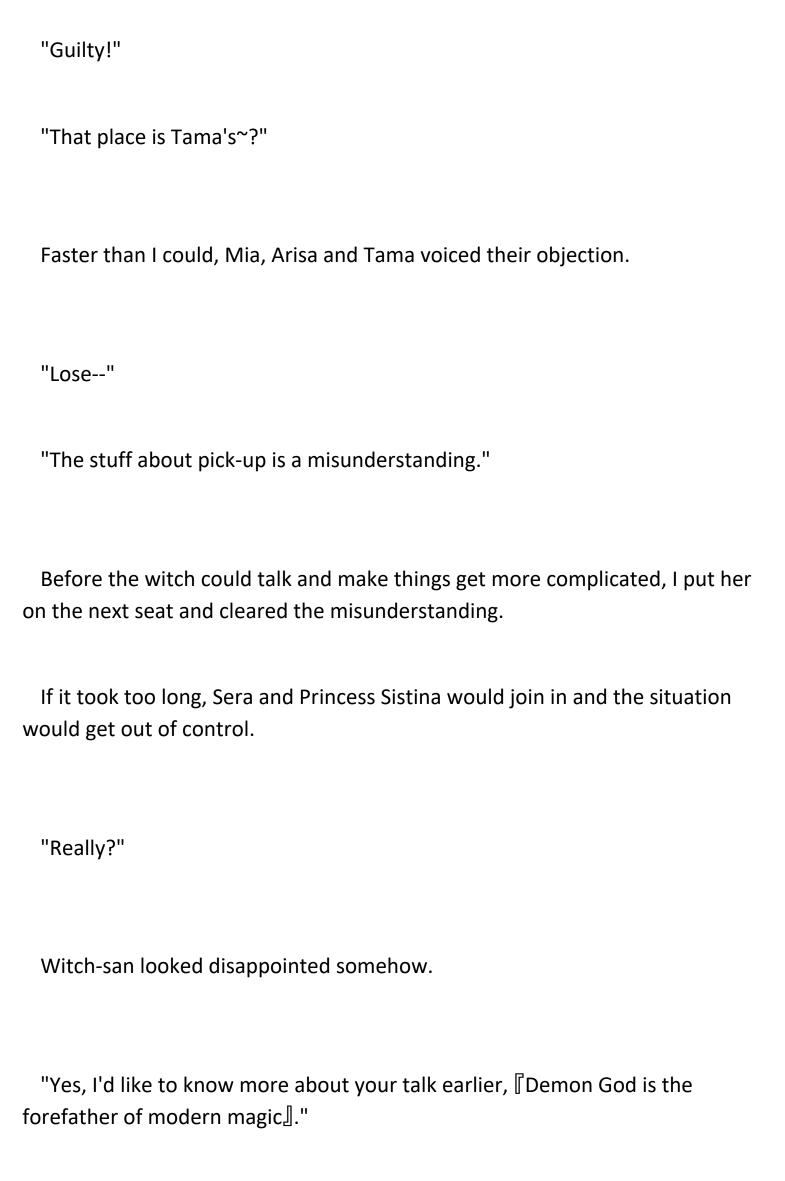
"Shut up, 116 year--"

The good-looking young man who was with the underling-sounding beauty, whom herself was in high tension and looking bashful, dragged her to the back.

"--I haven't seen you around before, and you don't look like an inquisitor either. I won't stop you from trying if you're really going to woe this agefalsifying hag, however I'd advise against it if you don't want to be shocked in the bedroom."



"Probably not?"
After replying to the tired-looking Arisa, I called out to the one of the waitresses, ordered for their shares of food and drinks, and decided to interrupt these two's skit.
As a side note, other girls besides Arisa and Zena-san are enjoying their meal at their own pace.
"Excuse me. Rather than standing around like this, how would you like eating together with us?"
I invited the two to a vacant seat while offering the wine cup the waitress brought.
"Ehehe, this sure makes me blush ssune."
For some reason, the underling-sounding beautyWitch-san is sitting on my lap.
"Mwu."



"Did that pique yer' interest? I'll tell ya anything you want ssuyo! But but, it'd be nice if you could add [Sama] suffix with respect on Demon God-sama's name ssu!"

The witch seemed happy when asked about her opinion, she got into high tension once again and pounced on my back.

She looks like a transient beauty outwardly, but her behavior is kinda like that of an old man somehow.

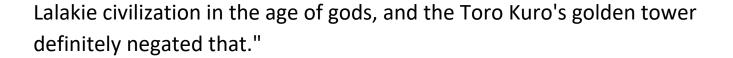
The good-looking young man sitting opposite to the witch sipped his wine cup after saying, "What a curious guy."

"One night won't be enough to talk about everythin' ssu. For now, do you have anything to ask me ssuka?"

"Could you tell me the basis for the belief that [Demon God is the forefather of modern magic]?"

"Uun, there a whole lotsa to it, but the most famous one was about a sage from long ago finding a slate detailing about how Demon God-sama taught humans magic in the ruins of Lalakie Dynasty located at Tokiswolk Kingdom ssune."

"Hmph. But the Larukeria Slate left in the ruins of ancient civilization after



The good-looking young man denied witch-san's explanation.

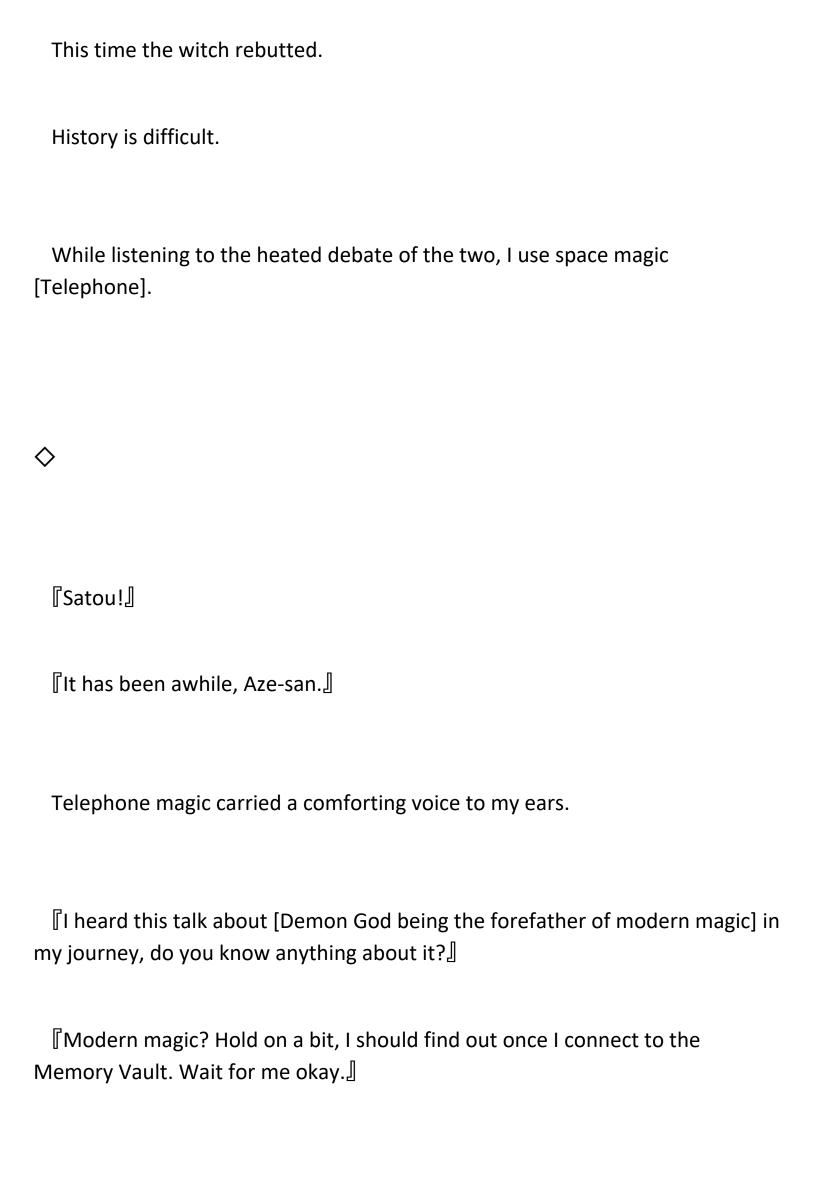
"How did those two negate it?"

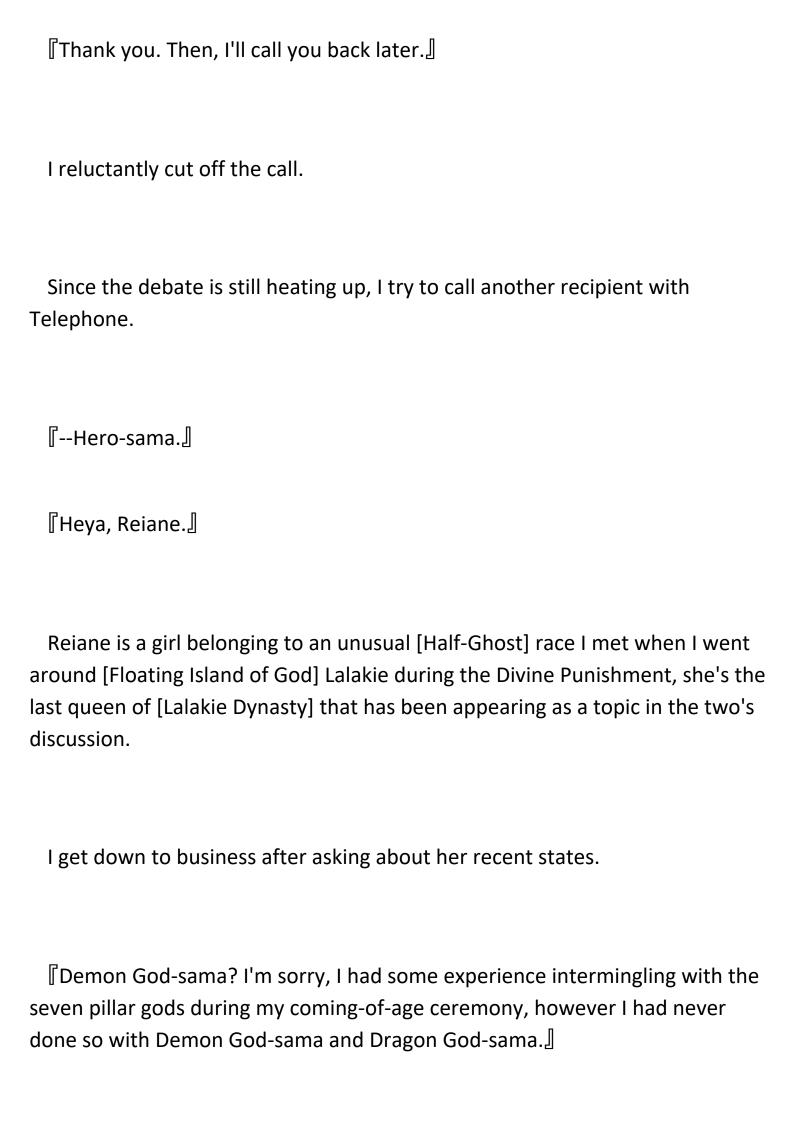
"On the Larukeria it's written that, through a subordinate under his control the <code>[Dog-head Demon Lord]</code>, demon god massacred sorcerers in the entire world, and then gave magic skills and magic letters to his followers after the genealogy of ancient sorcerers had gone extinct. While on Toro Kuro, he attempted to do the same to priests, however he incurred gods' wrath and got sealed deep in the underworld."

The young man smoothly narrated his story.

He too seems to be the type that loves to state his knowledge.

"Hold it ssu! I've been telling ya, Toro Kuro looks fabricated as heck! There are excerpts in Saga Empire's founding emperor's autobiography about his audience with Demon God-sama ssu! Same with Larukeria, it was a huge incident about a massacre of sorcerers in the entire world, and yet there's absolutely nothing about it written on other ruins from the same era ssuyo!"





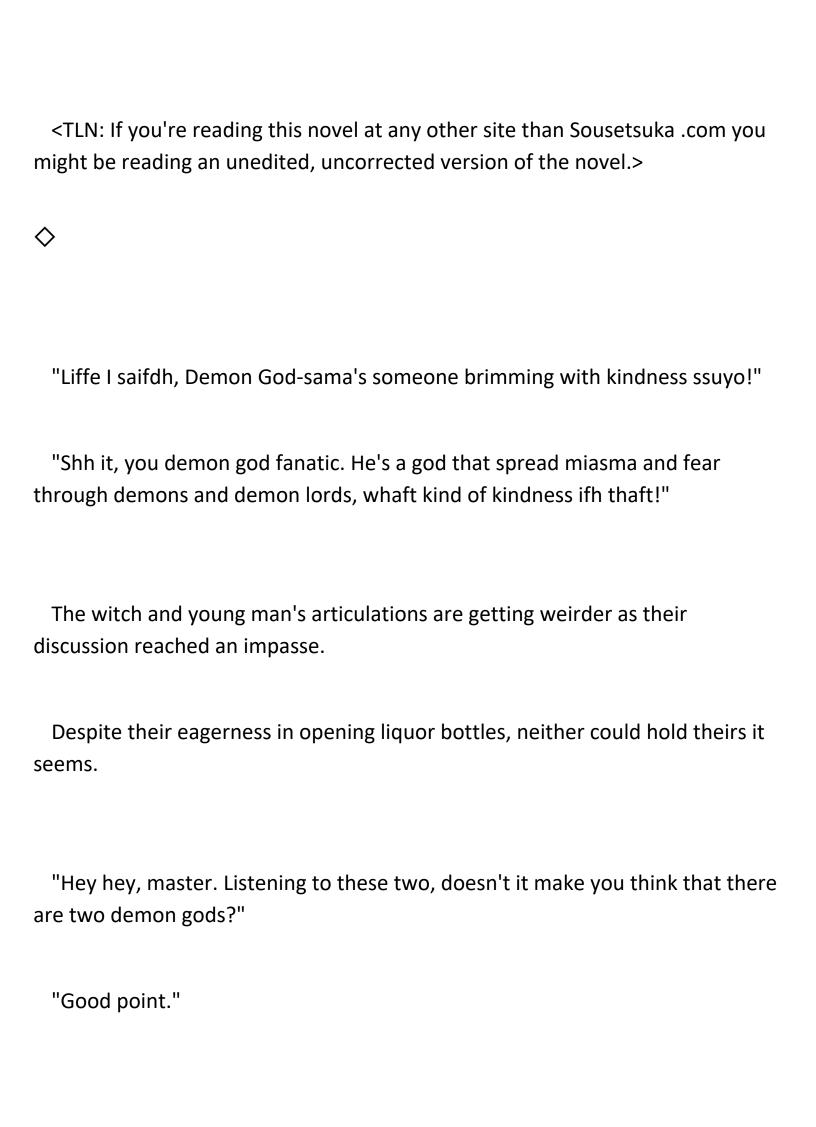
She didn't know about the sorcerer massacre incident either when I confirmed her about it. I also tried asking about the transition from primeval magic to modern magic but did not get a favorable response either. [One thing I heard about, apparently Demon God-sama often mingled with people in the mortal world. [Mingled?] TYes, I heard that he was dispatched to increase the number of mortals in order to offer a vast amount of prayers and supplications to gods. --Dispatched? [By whom?] I have no idea which, but I think it was by someone amongst the seven pillar gods. Looks like demon god was treated like a gofer by the seven pillar gods.

Come to think of it, Aze-san told me something along the line, [He took on the



Rather, the fact that the gods has put restriction on it means there's really a chance of [Demon God is the forefather of modern magic] being true.

I thanked Aze-san and, although it pained me to do so, cut off the call.



I half-heartedly gave an affirmation to Arisa who seemed to seriously consider that possibility. It's not rare to arrive at a completely different interpretation after analyzing information through filters. Fortunately, it doesn't seem like the seal of demon god sealed in the moon will get unraveled anytime soon, so there's no need to think so hard about--. --Wait. That's right. The myth in this world states that [Demon God is sealed in the Moon]. I know that's nonsense since I've personally been on the moon, however that is not a common knowledge. To the point that even the Weasel Emperor and those Brains bunch didn't know about it. And yet they said Demon God was sealed in the underworld. Perhaps, these guys know the true information regarding Demon God's seal. "Witch-dono--"

I tried to throw a question, but the witch and the young man are already snoring in sync with red faces. I could rouse them up right now with magic, but looking at their blissful sleeping faces makes it hard to do that just to answer my doubt. I ask the waitress, rent two rooms for these two drunkards and shove them in. Answering my doubt can be postponed after these two are awake. I'll put Markers on the two just in case. "Well then, let's split up the job."

After taking care of the drunkards, I announced the candidates for the

unsolved problems I'd like to solve and then we decided to split into five

groups.

First group is Mia, Princess Sistina and Zena-san as their guard.

The girls are going to challenge the problem, "How do you achieve chantless magic?"

The second group is Arisa and her guard, Liza. I'm thinking of having Hikaru join this team later.

They're going to research about [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations].

Our two acquaintances from earlier could be a big help in this problem.

The third group is Sera, with Nana as her guard.

They're, or rather, Sera is going to investigate about [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead].

If all goes well, we might be able to turn the Tokiswolk vampire children back.

The fourth group is Lady Karina, Pochi and Tama.

The three of them are going to trail-blaze the way to sightseeing spots in Kariswolk city.



Just to be safe, I handed over equipment with anti status effect buff to her.

As for me, I'll be investigating the topics [For what reason do Labyrinths exist?] and [How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?].

Both should be relatively easy to solve for a Dungeon Master like me.

Though since I cannot disclose my position as one, I wouldn't be able to announce the answer even if I had one.

I plan to join Arisa and Sera's groups once I'm done investigating these problems.



"[For what reason do Labyrinths exist?], is it?"

I fetched Core Two at the Solitary Island Palace and went with her to the [Dungeon Master Room] in the lowest layer of Dejima Island's [Phantasmal Labyrinth].





I agree with the former, but I wasn't even aware about the latter.

"Do dungeons have a function to collect miasma on the surface?"

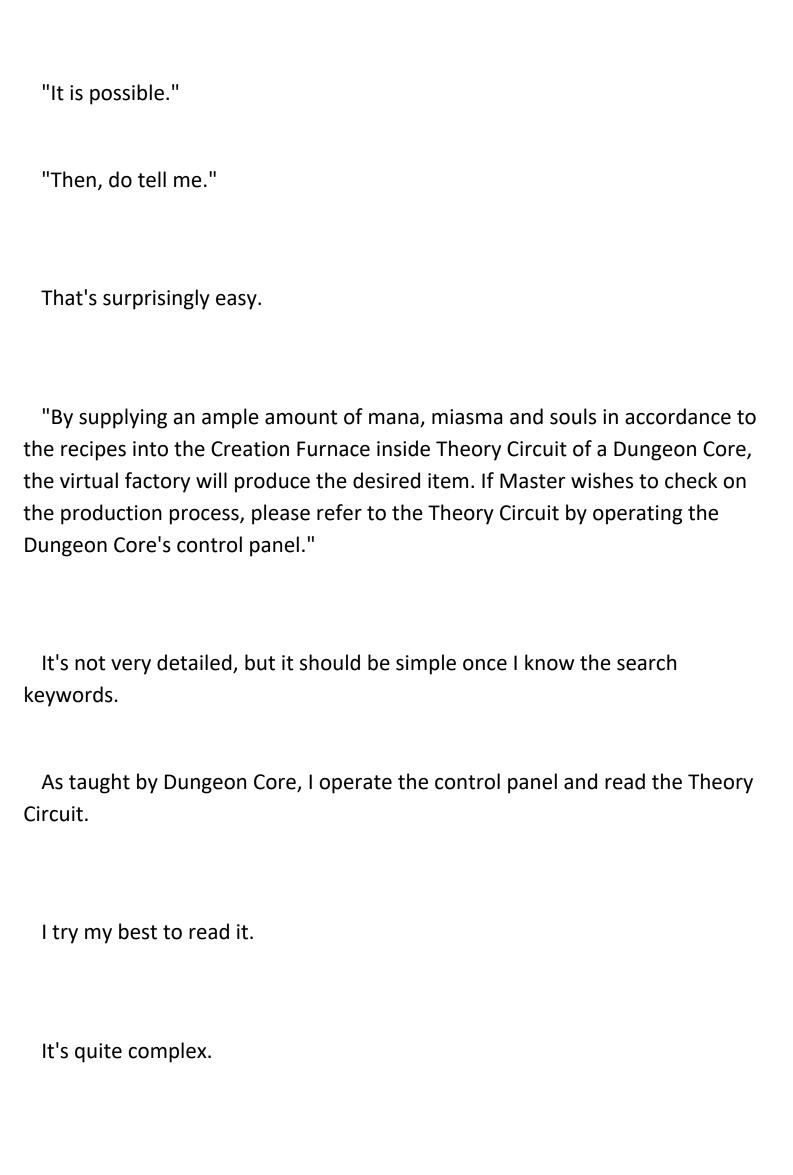
"No, they do not directly collect the miasma. It comes as a secondary side-effect from dungeons' function of collecting miasma inside them. The previous master hypothesized that the items Weasel Empire used to collect miasma, [Evil Thought Jar] and [Grudge Pot] might have been created using hints taken from dungeons."

I affirm Dungeon Core's words.

If you can do something about the souls part, it should be possible to turn dungeons into plants by creating a magic to collect miasma.

One of the problems, [How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?], can be mostly explained with what Dungeon Core told me earlier, [Manufacturing plants equipped with an abundant of mana, miasma and souls].

"Core, are you able to to explain how a dungeon produces monsters and items by making use of mana, miasma and souls?"



And most importantly, the circuit area is tremendously vast. I feel the helplessness of a junior high school student who's just finished soldering a radio and tried to read the schematic of the latest CPU. The scale is such that even with my maxed out INT, reading and understanding everything would take at least several months or even a year. However, it's worth all that labors, thus I plan to analyses the downloaded schematic whenever I have time. "Now then, guess I really can't announce the answer..." I think what Dungeon Core said earlier would be acceptable as an answer, however, there's just one little problem.

If the fact that dungeons need souls to create items is known, I could see greedy people in power sacrificing innocent people and demi-humans to dungeons.

Even if it didn't get that bad, I'm afraid of the possibility people intentionally increasing mortality rate of rookie explorers.

I let out a sigh, went to Solitary Island Palace to fetch Hikaru and went back to the city-state Kariswolk.

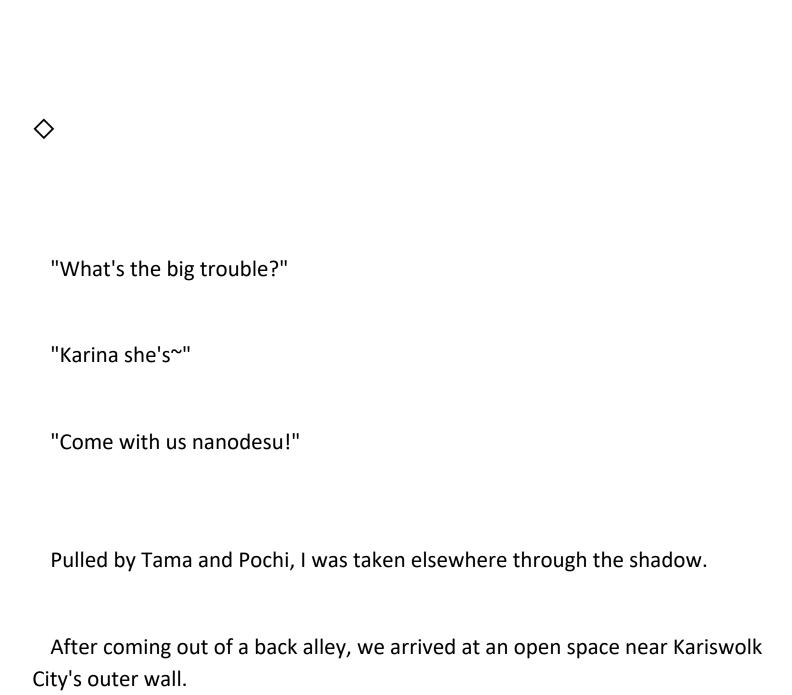
Right when I got there, I could hear Tama's and Pochi's flustered voice from below me.

"Big trouble, big trouble~?"

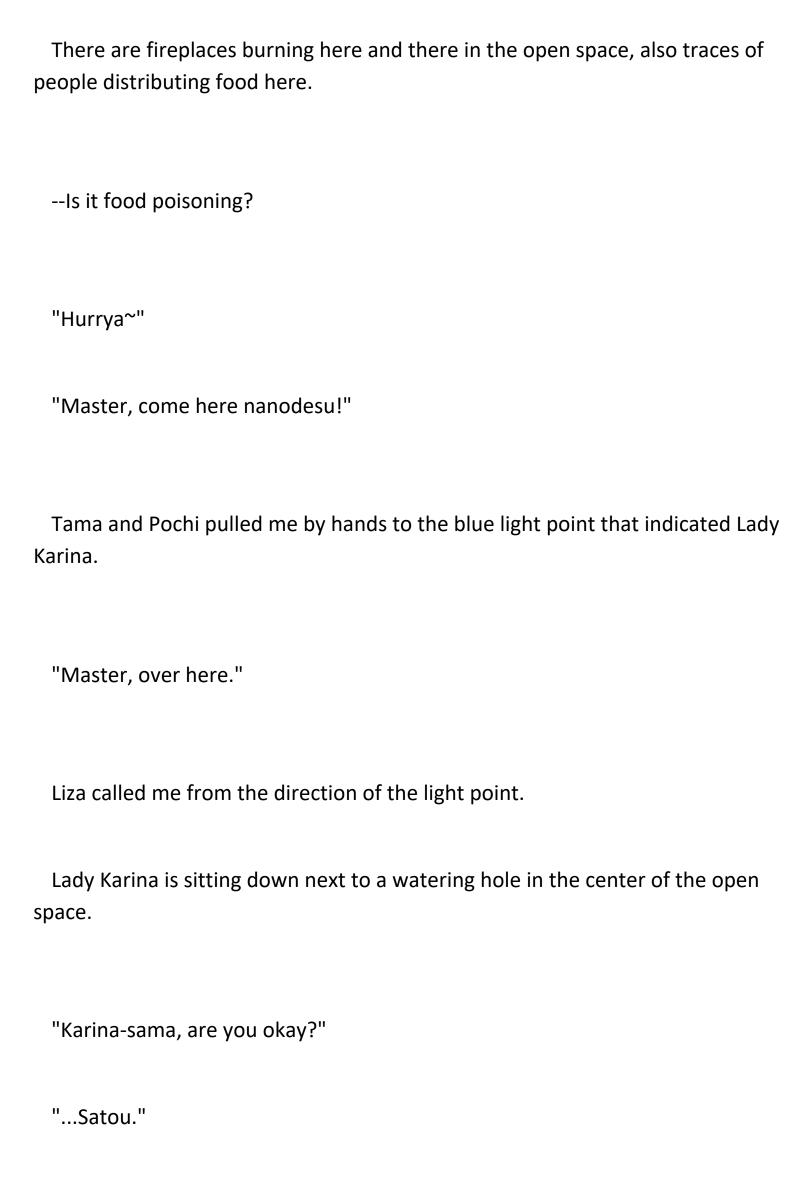
"Master, there's a big trouble nanodesu!"

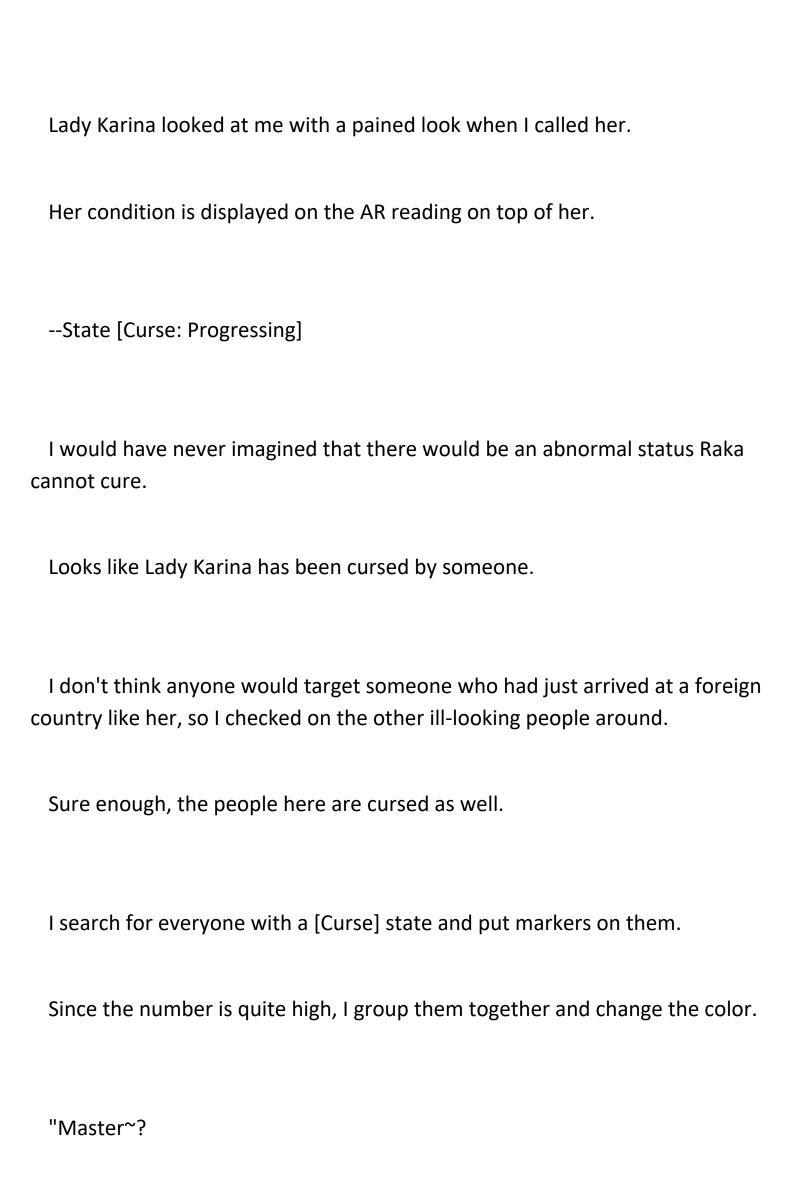
16-55. Sage's Tower (4)

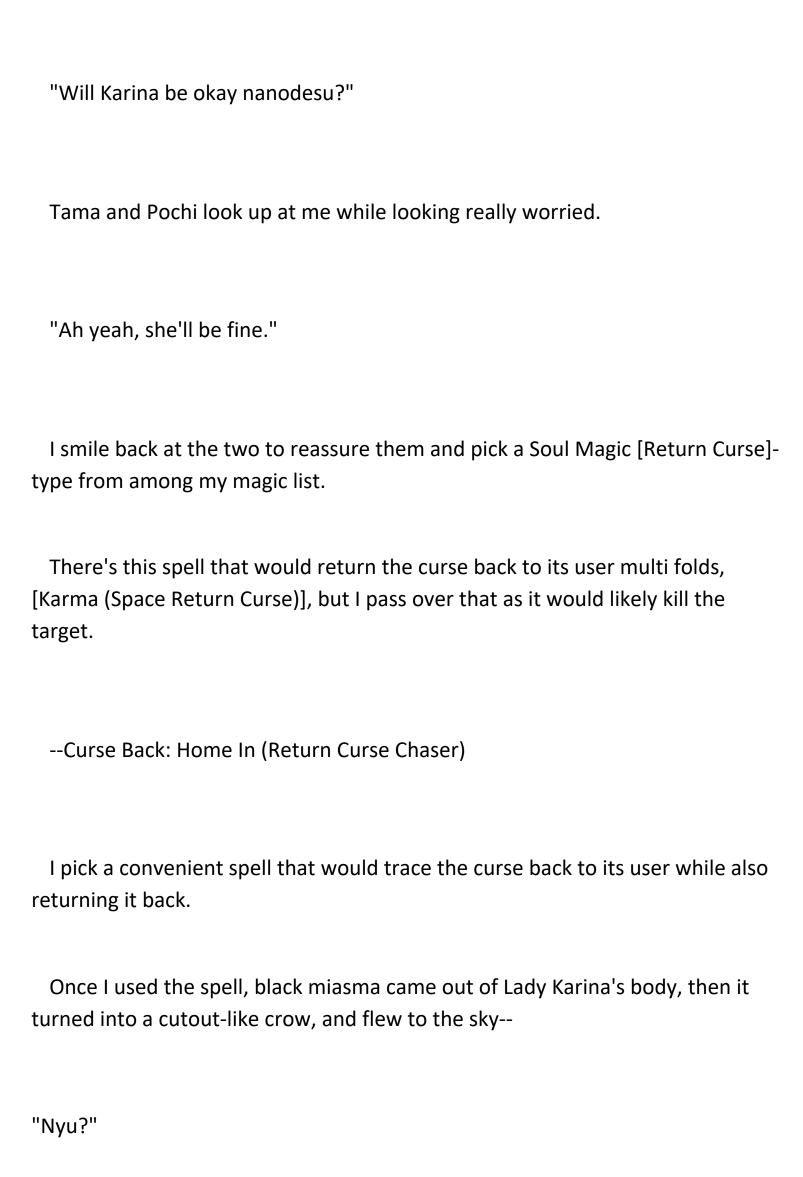
Satou here. Unlike in fictional stuff such as detective manga or drama, I would have liked it for incidents to stop happening every time I got to a new place. Peaceful every day life is the best you know.



Something seems amiss, many people in the open space are crouching down looking ill.







"It's gone nodesu."

But for some reason, it was repulsed and then disappeared when it was about to fly over the water.

Normally, it should have flown back to the curse's user, but apparently, there was some kind of anti Return Curse mechanism at work, so the tracking was stopped midway.

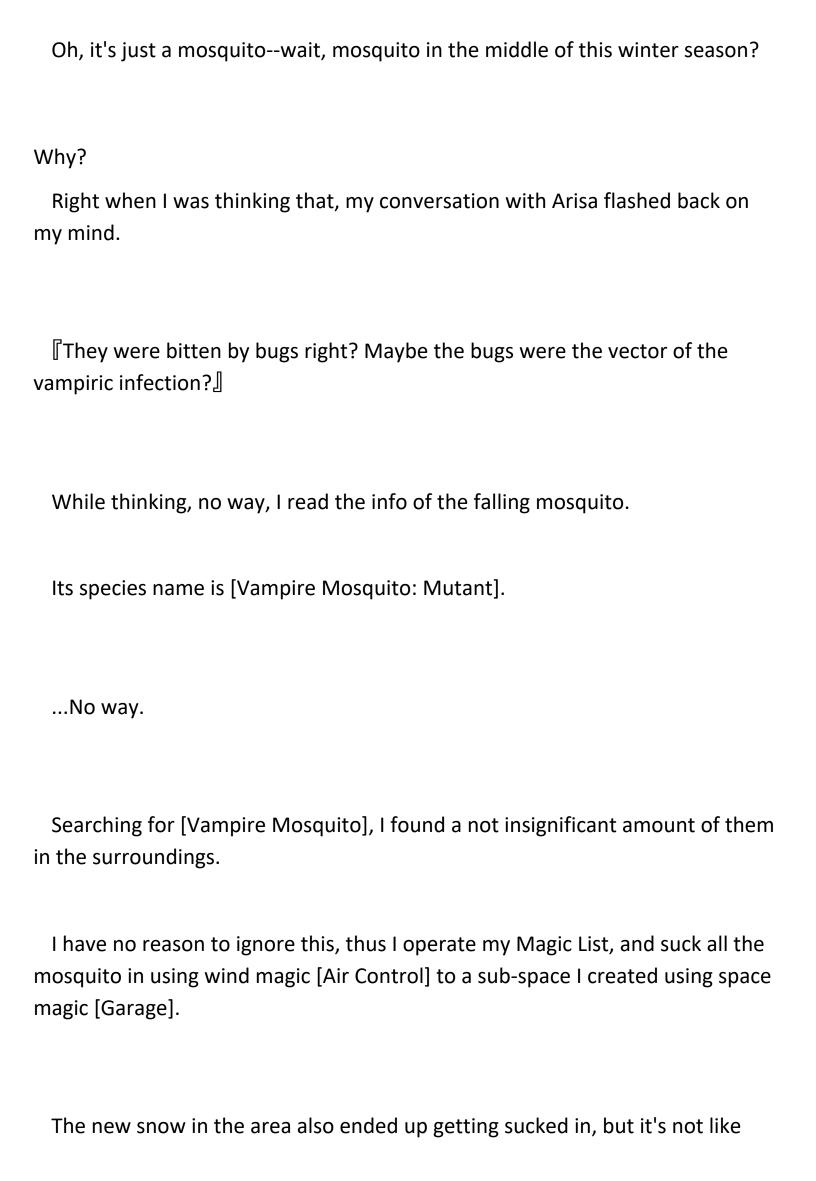
But for now, since Lady Karina's abnormal state has gone back to [None], all's well.

And for other people with Curse status, rather than using [Return Curse] on them one by one, I'll just use the advanced spell of light magic [Divine Brilliant Purification] and cure them off their Curses.

"Nyu!"

Right when I was about to cast the spell from the magic list, Tama slashed her claw at empty air.

With a view magnified by my skill, I could see a falling mosquito that had been cut in two.



anyone would be troubled if the mosquito died, so I left it alone.

After securing one rat that had fallen into the same condition as Lady Karina earlier, I cast the [Divine Brilliant Purification], and purified the crouching people who had been cursed in the open space all at once.

Quite a flashy light filled the open space, but we're the only one who would pay it any mind here, so no problem there.



"So what actually happened here?"

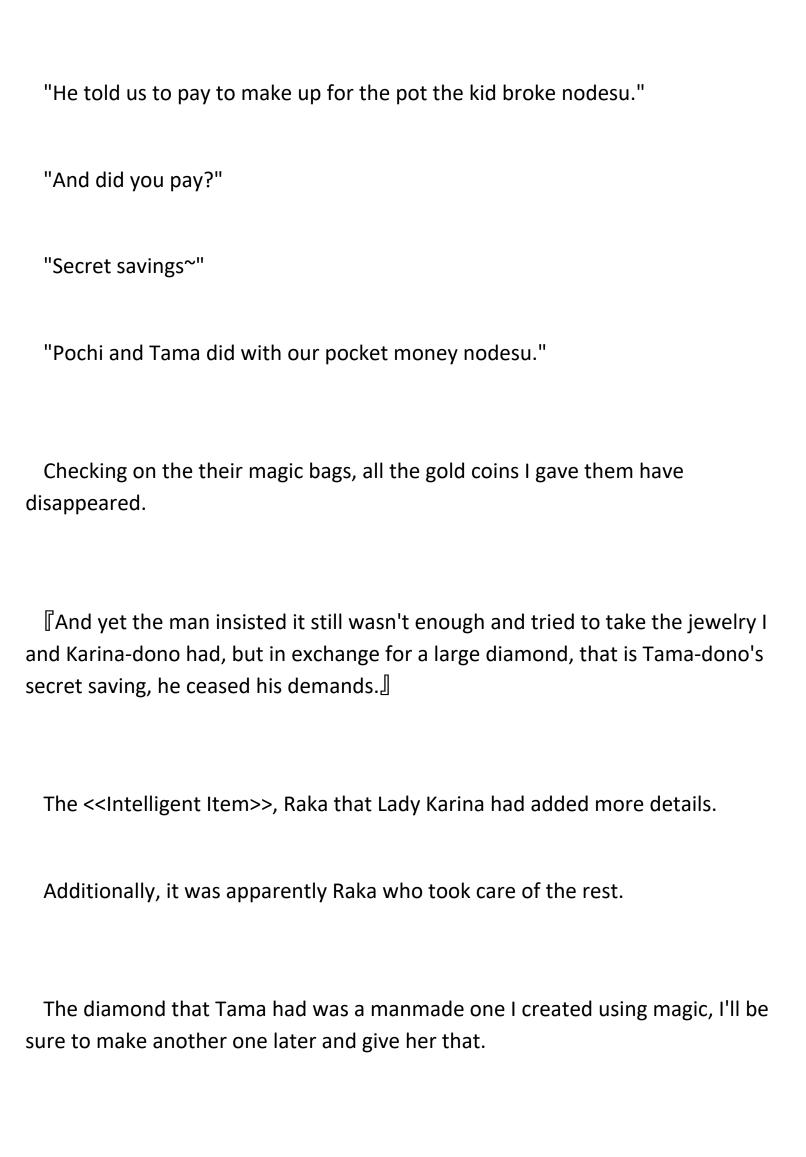
"There was this little kid who broke a pot nodesu."

"The adult was going to hit that kid with a stick~"

"He was going to hit her with a stick nodesu!"

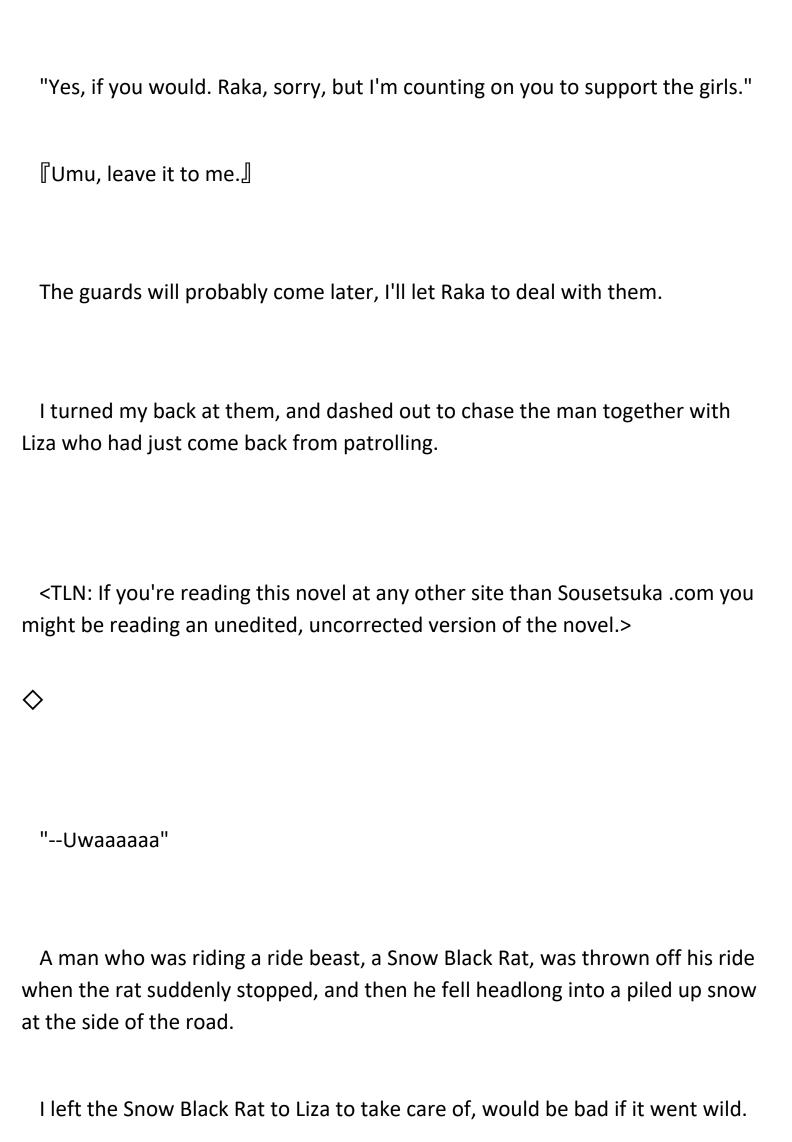
I sort out the info in my head while Tama and Pochi continue on with their narration.

I had asked Liza to patrol the open space for a bit, I might have made a mistake in the personnel selection here.
There was a man next to the watering hole, and there was a big pot next to that man.
That pot had a warm water inside, steam was coming out of it.
One of the kids who were playing hide and seek bumped into that man, and then the falling man hit the pot in a chain reaction, breaking it.
Afterward, Lady Karina and the girls, who witnessed the enraged man flailing a stick around, put a stop to the barbaric act.
I secretly secured the broken pot's splinters from the ground into my Storage.
According to its detailed information, it was an item created at the old capital of Saga Empire.
Saga Empire huh.
"Reimbursement."

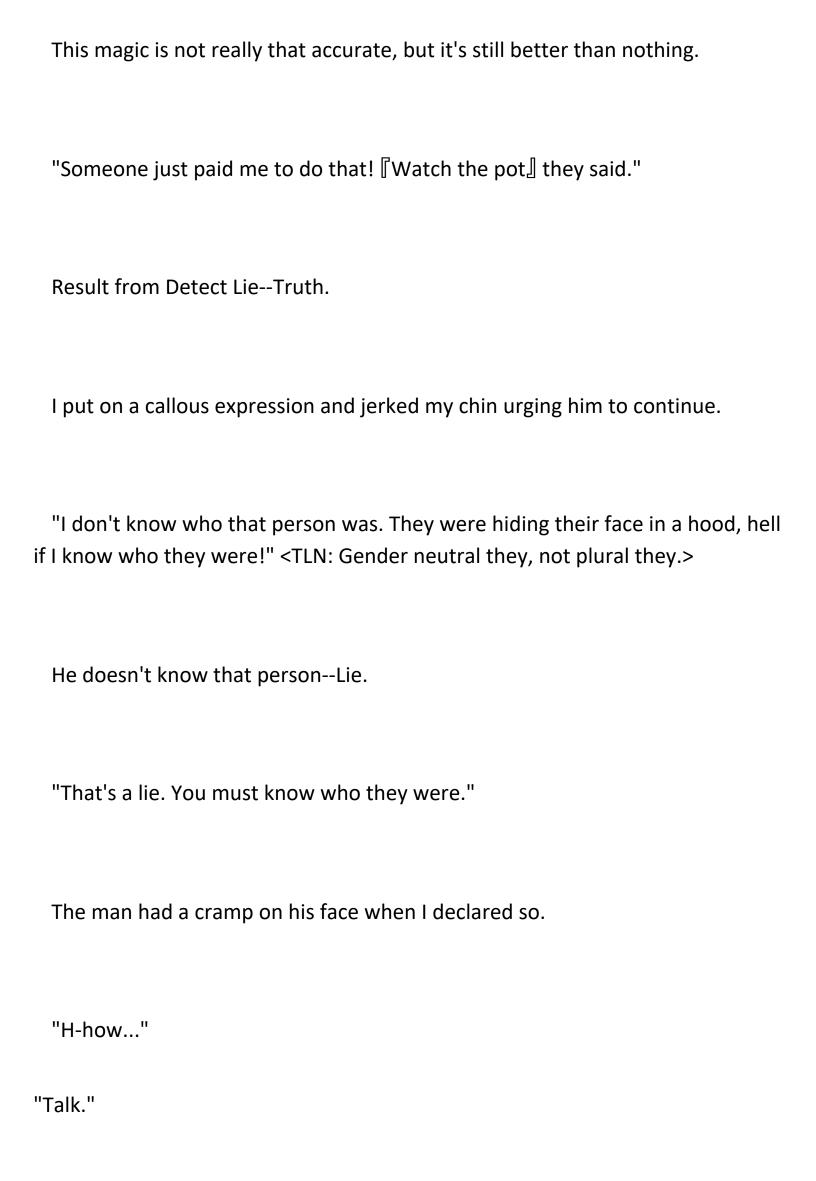


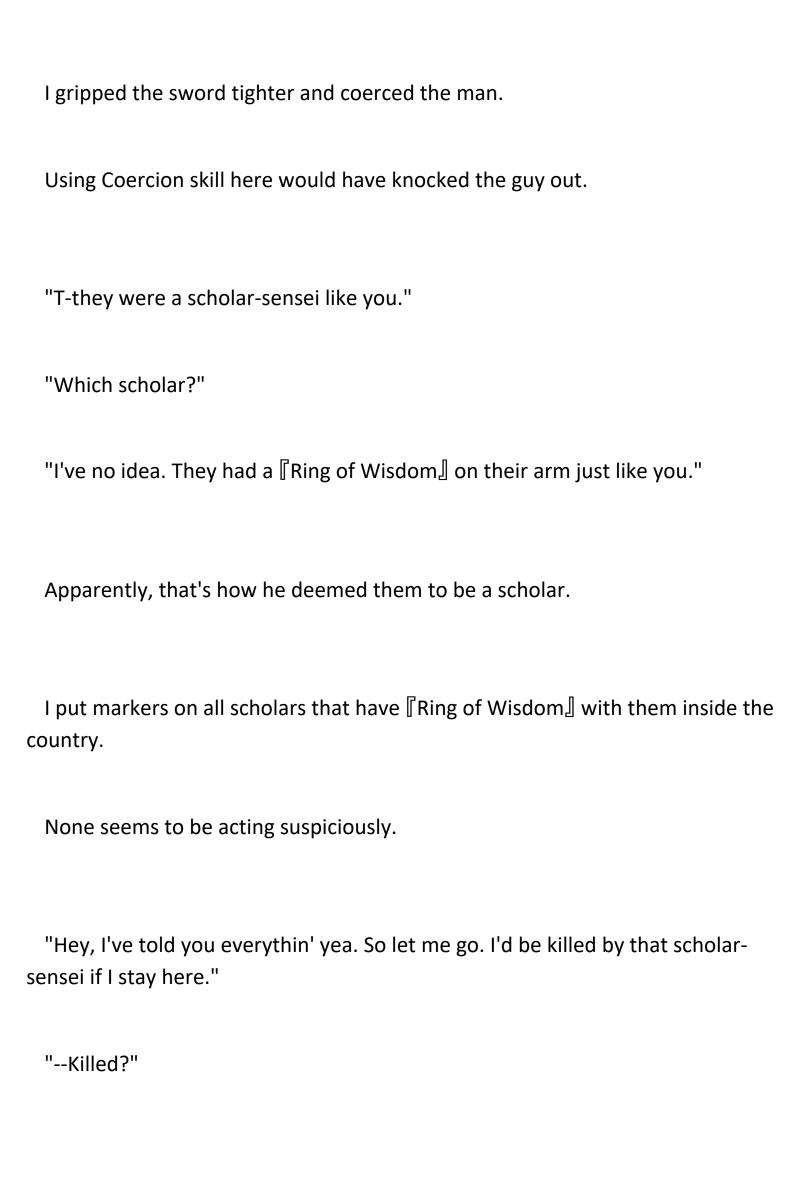


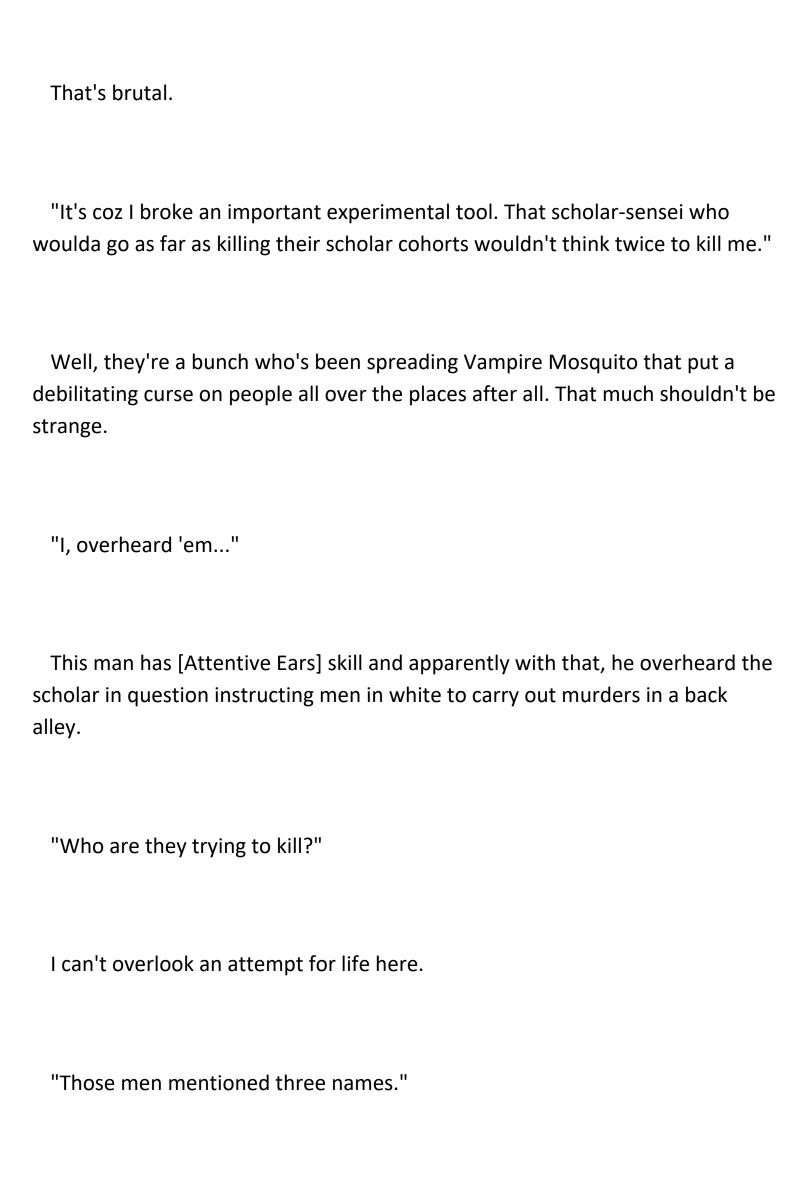


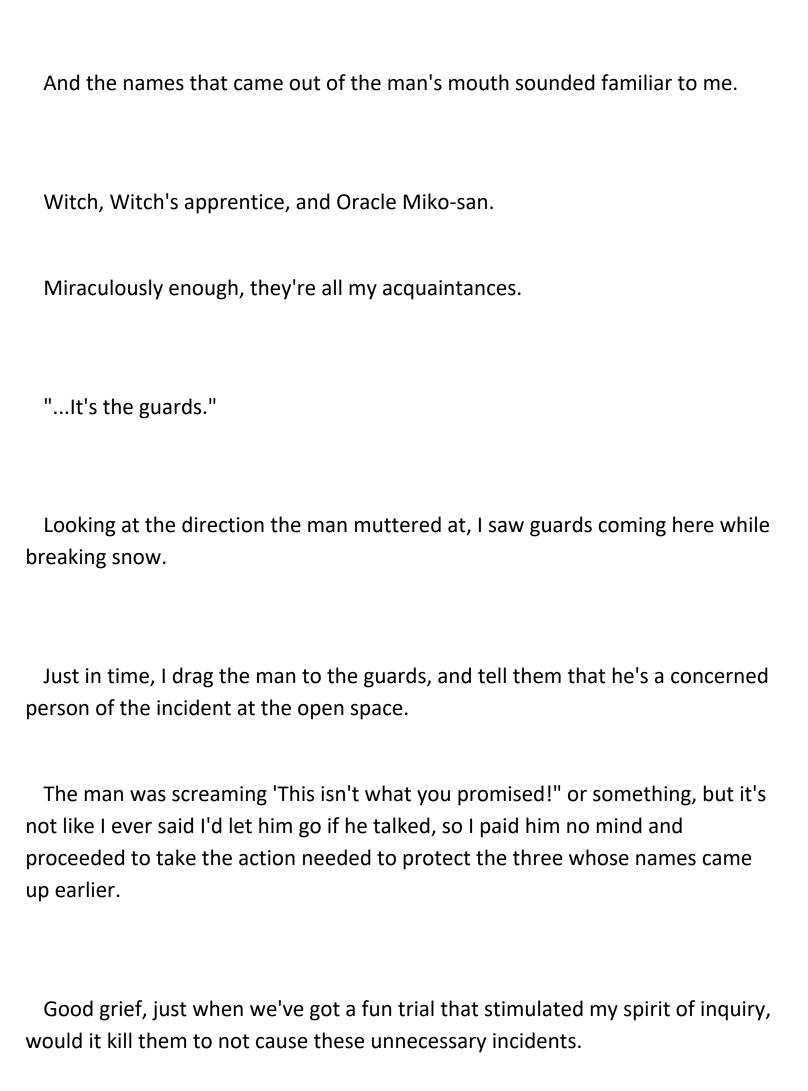












16-56. Sage's Tower (5)

Satou here. It's said that if you find one cockroach, there's 30 more in hiding, the worst part about roaches is that even after exterminating them with spray-type insecticide, their eggs will simply incubate and multiply once again, don't you think?

Looks like there's an even more annoying creature in another world though...



[Private Pochi, Private Tama, I've got an emergency mission for you! Immediately go to the diner where we had our meal earlier and guard the drunk witch and apprentice who are fast asleep!]

[Aye aye sir~]

[Roger nanodesu!]

I used space magic [Tactic Talk] to ask Pochi and Tama to protect them from the bunch who were using [Vampire Mosquito] to spread curse.

I thought of sending Tama and Pochi to guard Miko Maiya at the temple since

that one seems safer, but considering the place, they'd likely get treated as trespassers, so I had them go to the diner instead.

Well, the two shouldn't get in danger unless a demon lord class foe appeared, it should be fine.

[Master, Karina said she wants to come along too nodesu.]

[Got it. She can come with you, but tell her not to overdo it okay.]

[Yes nanodesu.]

[Gotcha~]

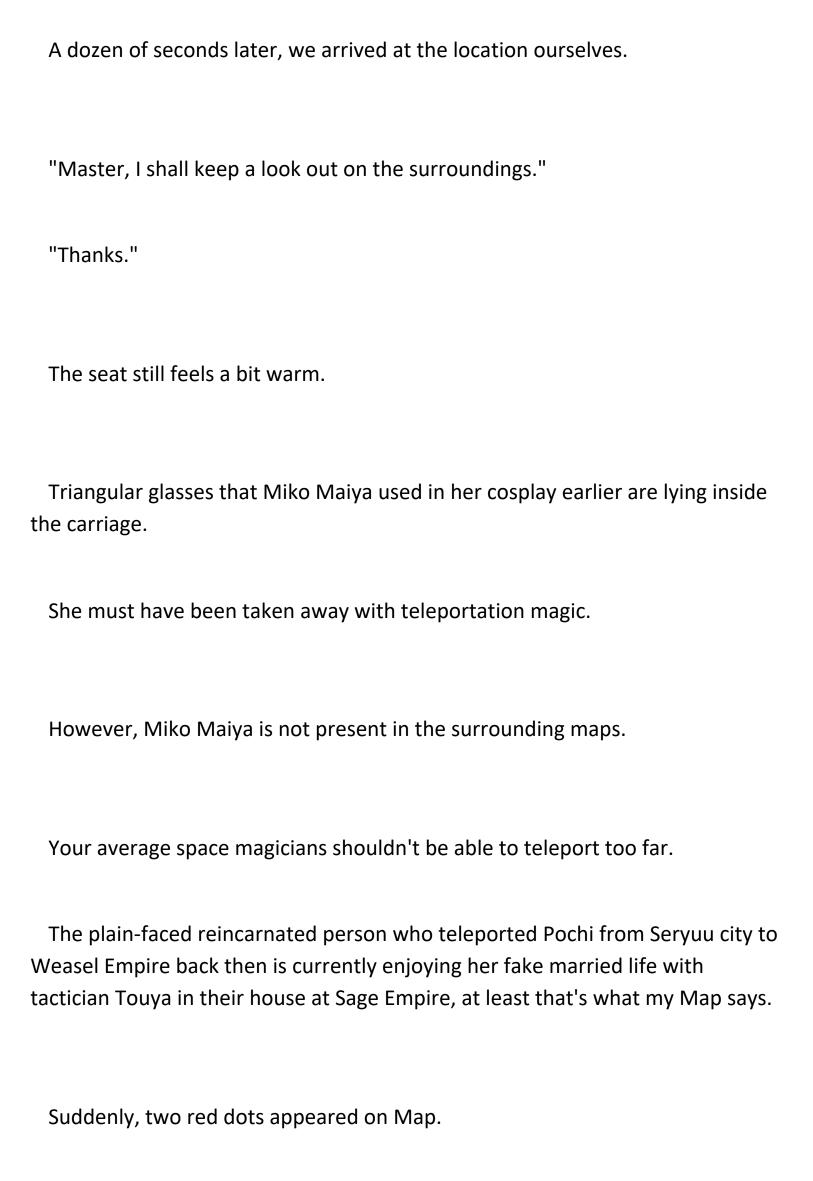
After confirming on the Map that their luminous dots were heading to the diner, I rushed to Karion Main Temple with Liza.

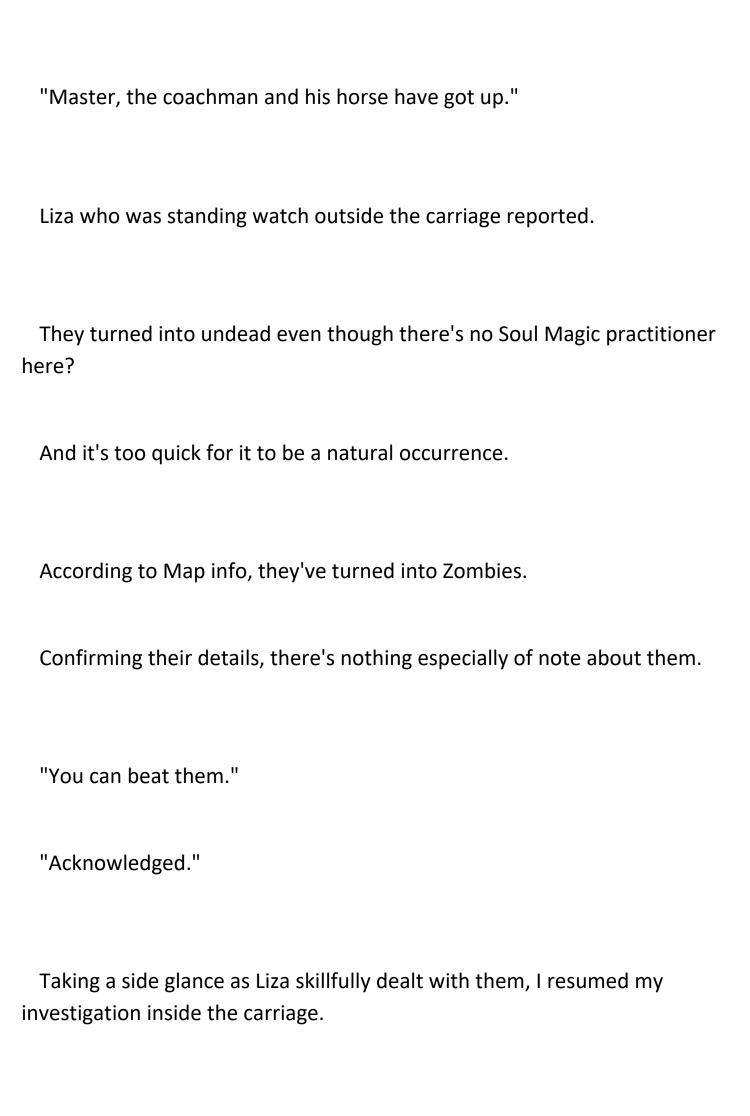
The miko's dot that was displayed on the Radar disappeared just now.

"Y-you're the person who came for the trial--"

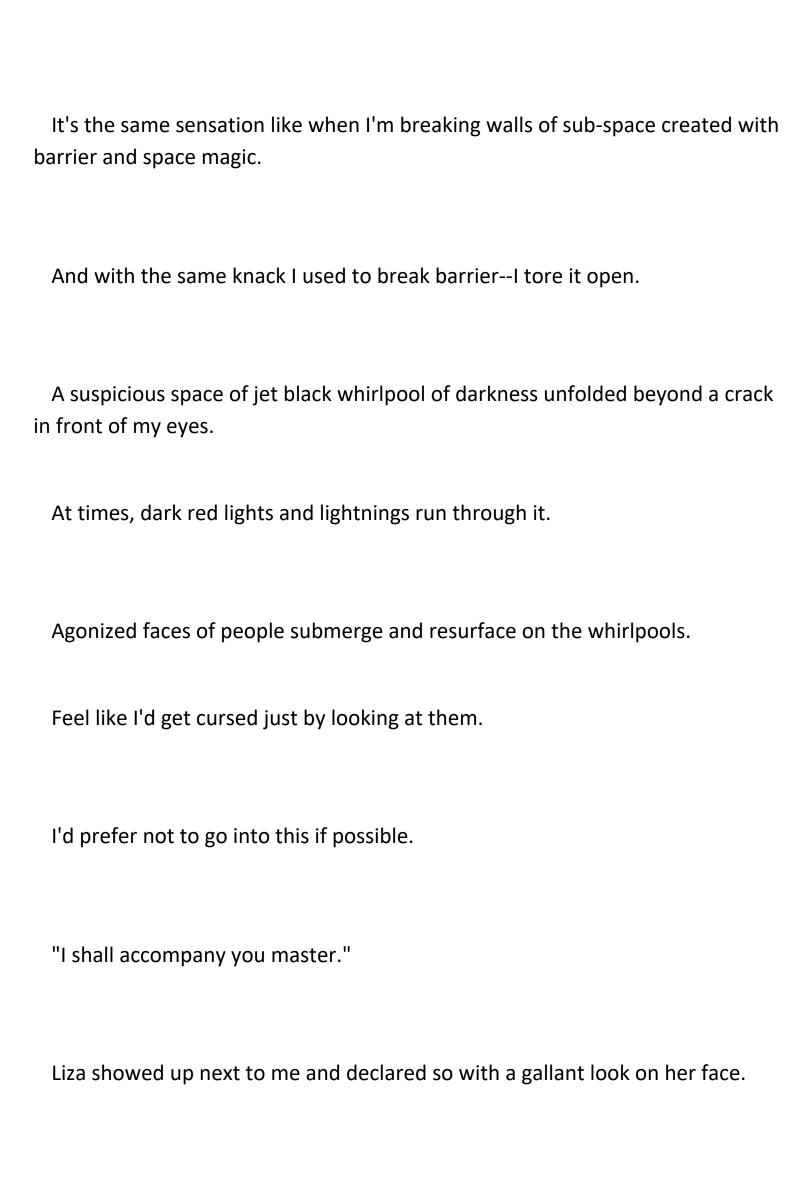
"Where's Miko Maiya?"

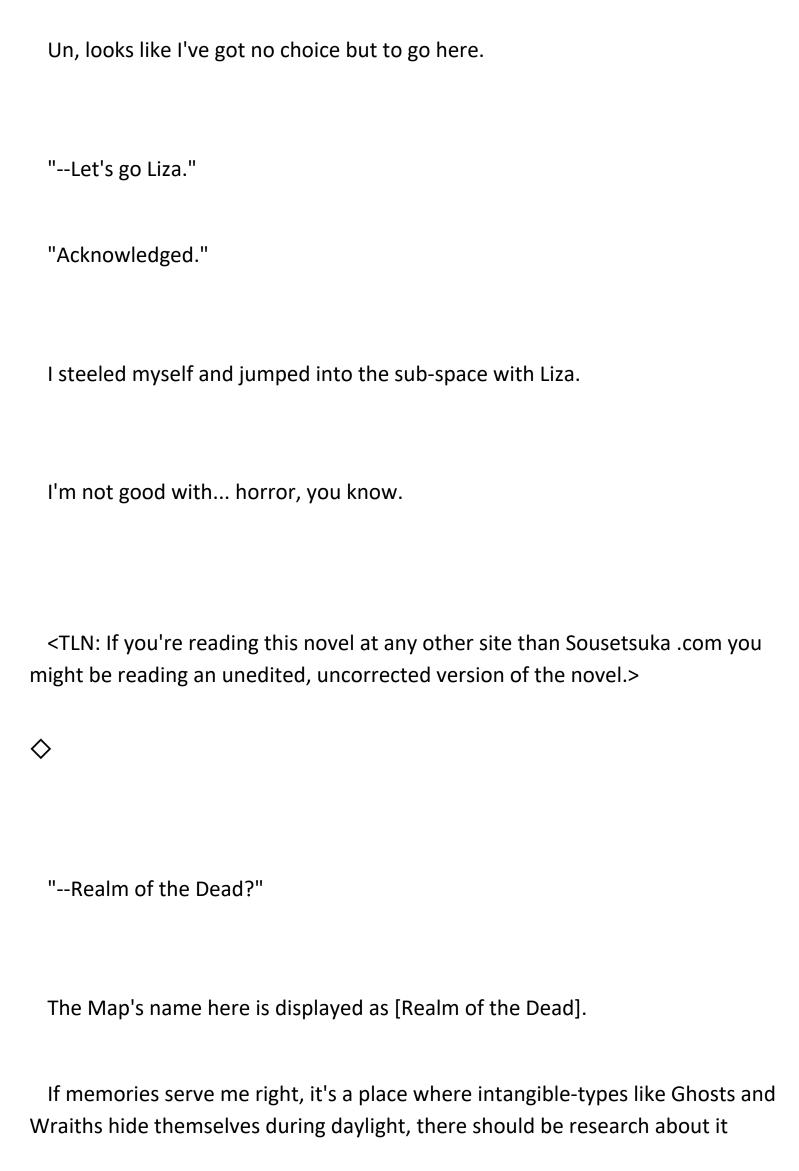


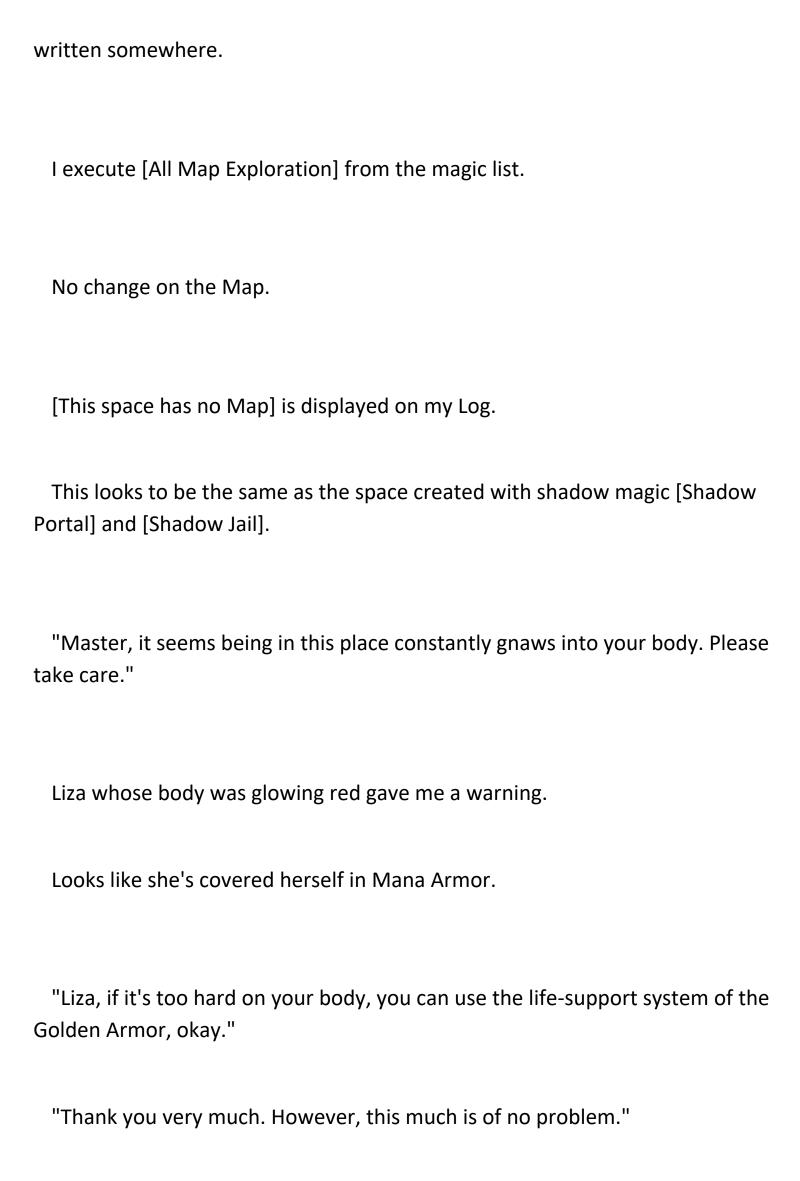


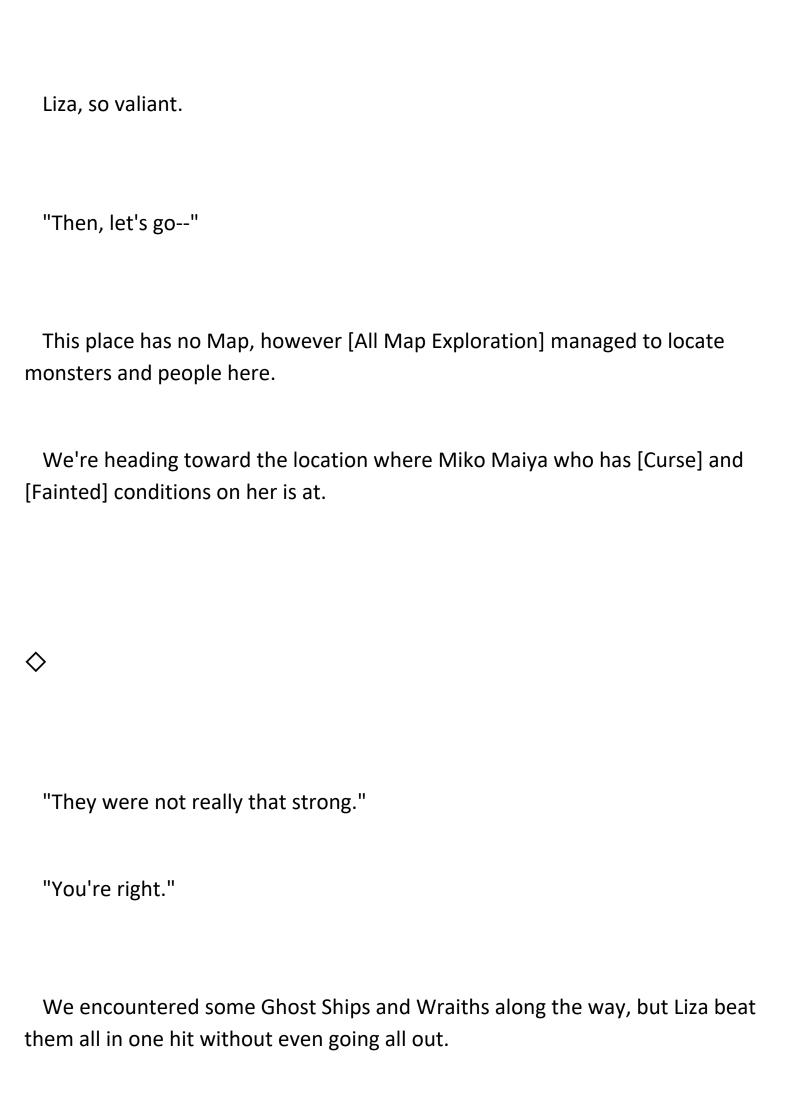


There's something odd.
After changing my vision to Miasma Sight, miasma that's far thicker than normal comes into view.
Miasma that's usually only drifting around like thick fog and haze is weirdly wriggling about. Like a whirlpool.
The center of the whirlpool appears to be the carriage.
Nothing.
There's nothing in both my normal vision and Miasma Sight's vision.
However
"Too fishy."
I abruptly reach out to the empty spacethe center of the whirlpool.
I could feel something on my fingertips.









"--Whoa, Liza, stop. The place changed again. Let's go over there."

"Understood. This Realm of the Dead does not seem to be a straightforward place, does it."

Location information in this space seems to be unstable, we could suddenly get whisked away to separate places were we moving separately, thus in order to move in Realm of the Dead, Liza's Powered Exoskeleton unit finally gets its chance to shine.

It's an equipment I developed along with Arisa's Wand Warship, but it hasn't seen much use outside her sparring bouts with the black dragon, so we're putting it to use here with no people around.

It can fly with the gravity control mechanism of Darkness Crystal, and it seems usable in this place no problem.

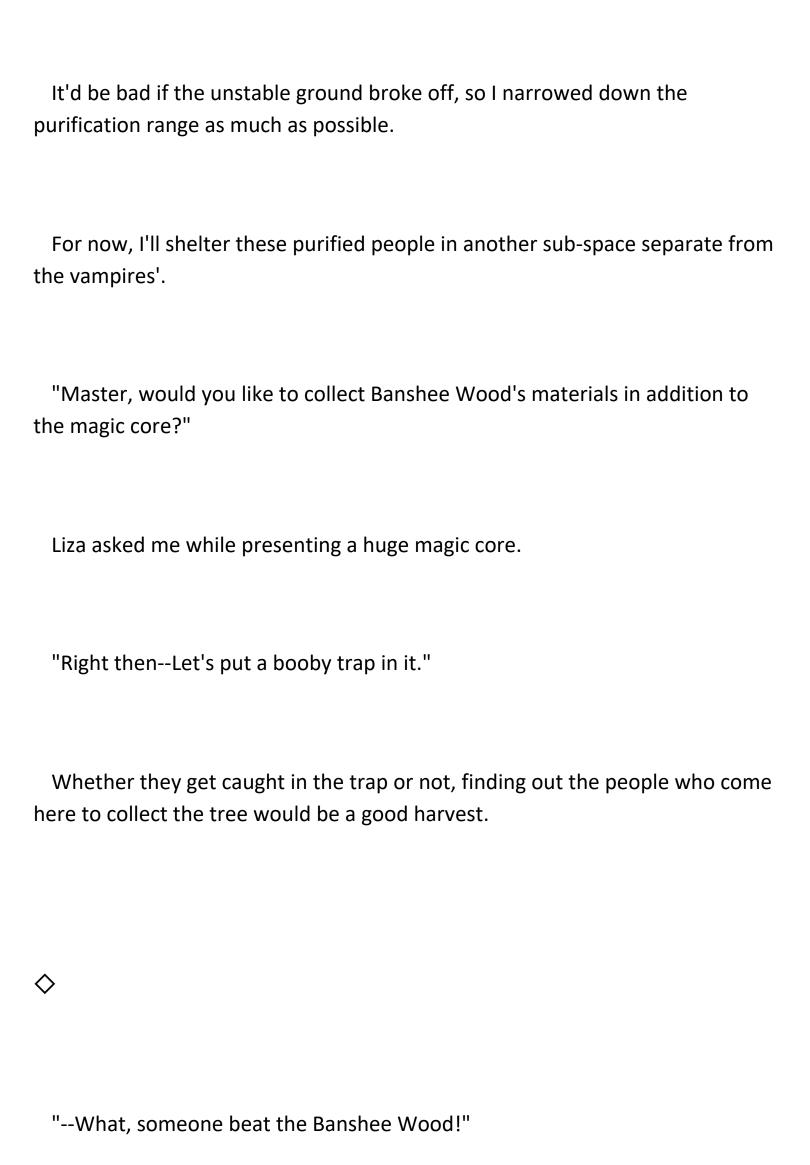
Well, I could have just created a short cut with space magic, but since there's no particularly dangerous enemies around, we're heading there by flying for Liza's exosuit flight test.

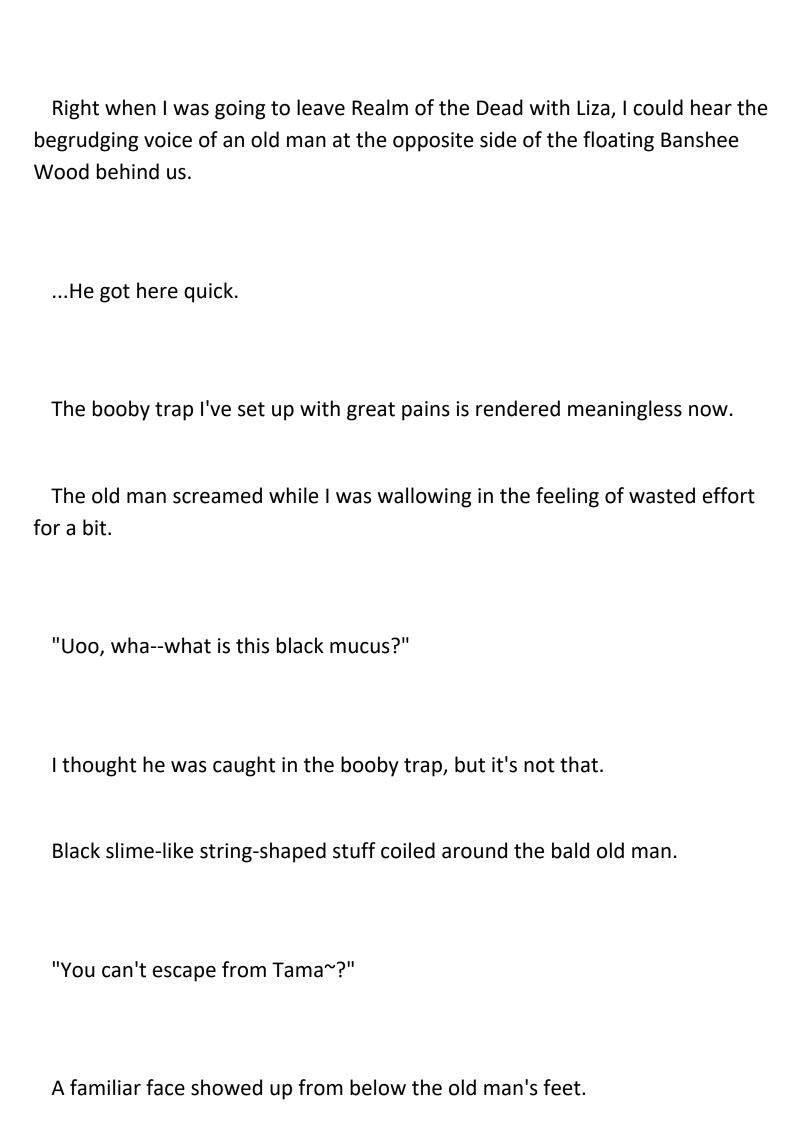
"Master, please take a look at that."

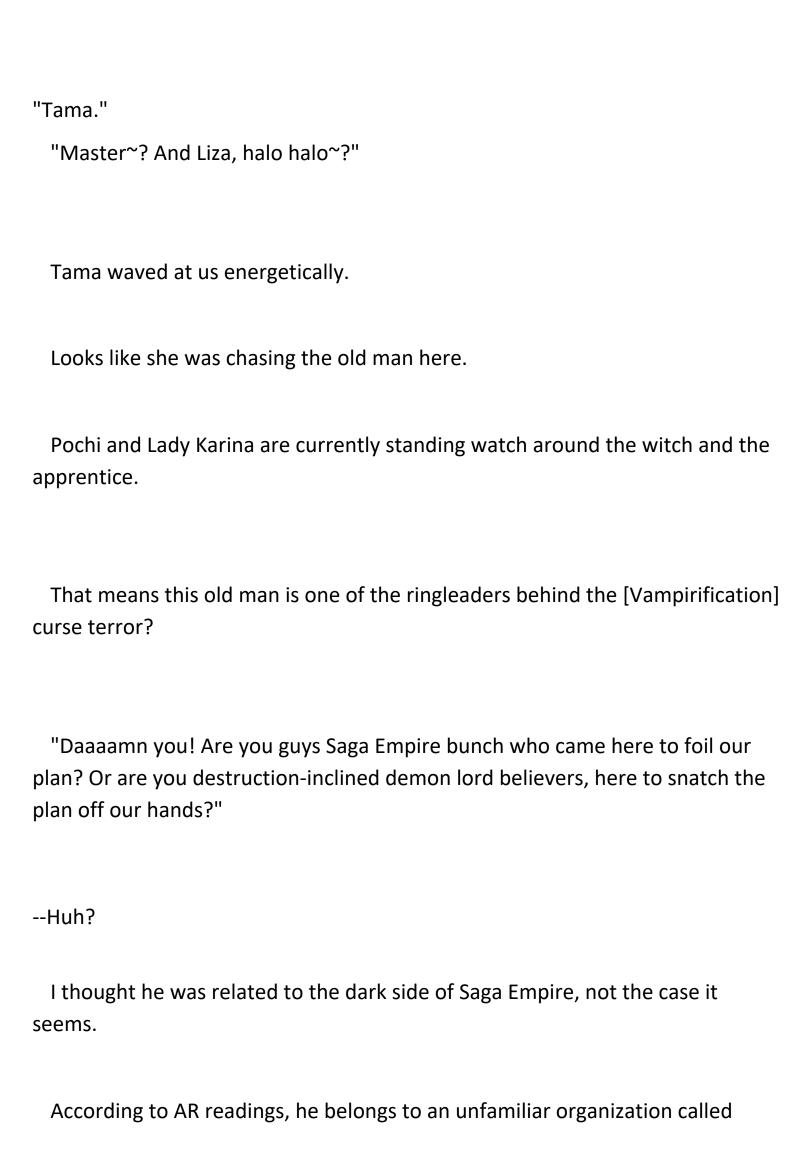
After advancing for a while, we come across a tree with lots of dark red

cocoons stuck on it.
Its branches and trunks have so many bends and twists, feels like your mind would destabilize just by looking at it.
"Looks like we've arrived at our destination."
"There is a lot of cocoon-like things, is Miko Maiya confined in one of them?"
"Yep, it seems so."
I light Miko Maiya's pseudo-cocoon with light magic, and pluck it with [Magic Hand].
When the dark red fibers got torn off, a face appeared on the twisted tree, then it screamed out loud.
According to AR readings, it's an undead monster called [Wailing Tree (Banshee Wood)].
I knew that it was a monster from the Radar's red dot though.
"Is it all right if we kill it?"

"Yea, no problem, but let's pluck out all the cocoons first."
There are other captured people inside those cocoons too.
I pluck all the pseudo-cocoons with [Magic Hand] from the tree, and let Liza handle the Banshee Wood.
All the people captured inside the pseudo-cocoons have the [Oracle] skill.
Half of them have [Cursed] state, while the other half are [Vampires], of which two are [Vampire Lords].
Moreover, these vampires' Occupations are that which should have been their natural enemyMiko and Priests.
Don't tell me.
No, there's no need to guess, they must be Miko and Priests that have been turned into Vampires.
I put all the people who have been turned into vampires in a locked sub-space I own, and cleanse the rest off their Curse with advanced spell of light magic [Divine Brilliant Purification].

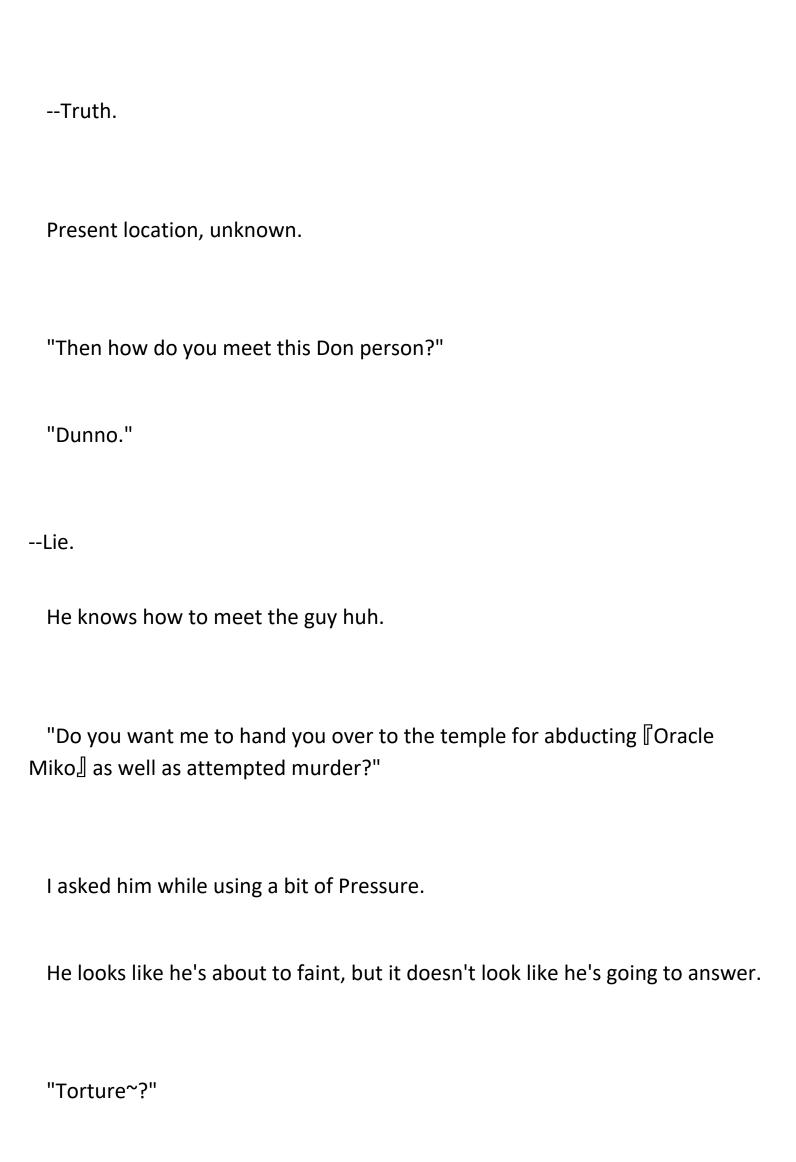




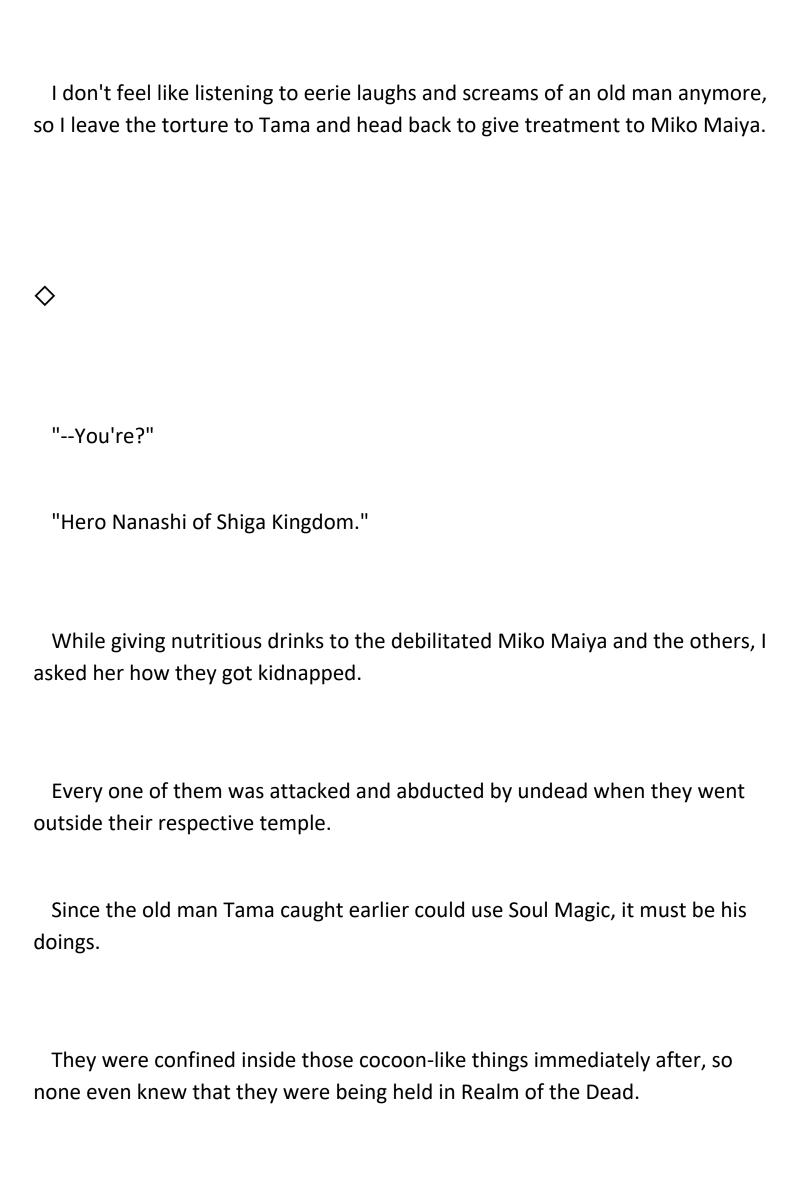


[Heart of Gold].
There sure is a lot more suspicious secret societies than I thought in this world.
"Now that it's come to thisOpen!"
The old man shouted then a black hole appeared beside him. It's Item Box.
The old man thrust his hand inside and take out a purple sphere from inside it.
Crisis Perception.
I moved next to the old man with Flash Drive and snatched away that sphere.
Since the Crisis Perception rang even louder then, I stored the sphere into my Storage.
"O summoning gem! I offer you my life to bring a demon that symbolizes ruin to this land! Destroy my enemies in exchange of my soul!"

The old man tried to throw the sphere down, but he realized that the [Purple Sphere] on his hand was absent, and looked around at the surroundings in panic.
"Give it back! That's my treasure comrade Don-dono stole along with the egg of [Vampirification] from a research institute abroad!"
So it's a stolen good.
I'll use the mind magic [Detect Lie] that I used to interrogate the jar man back then and interrogate this old man.
"Which research institute did you steal it from?"
"Dunno."
Truth.
"Where is this Don person?"
"Dunno."



With a paint brush in one hand, Tama is making a wriggling hand gesture.
"Hmph, I wouldn't be a leader of the [Heart of Gold] who seeks eternal life if mere tortures would break me!"
Oh ho?
"By eternal life, you mean like elves?"
"Like men could become fairies! Our goal is the evolution to a being of eternal life such as [Undead Magic King (Lich)] and [No Life King]!"
Is that even an evolution?
Well whatever
"Tama, do it."
"Aye aye sir~"



Ordinarily, these mike and priests shouldn't get attacked by undead because they had holy marks, so they told me while sounding frustrated.

Miko besides Miko Maiya and Heraruon Temple's miko were all captured from the neighboring countries.

Since I had every one of those countries' Map already, I sent each of them back to theirs with Unit Arrangement and space magic.

I've put markers on them and put them together in the same group beforehand.

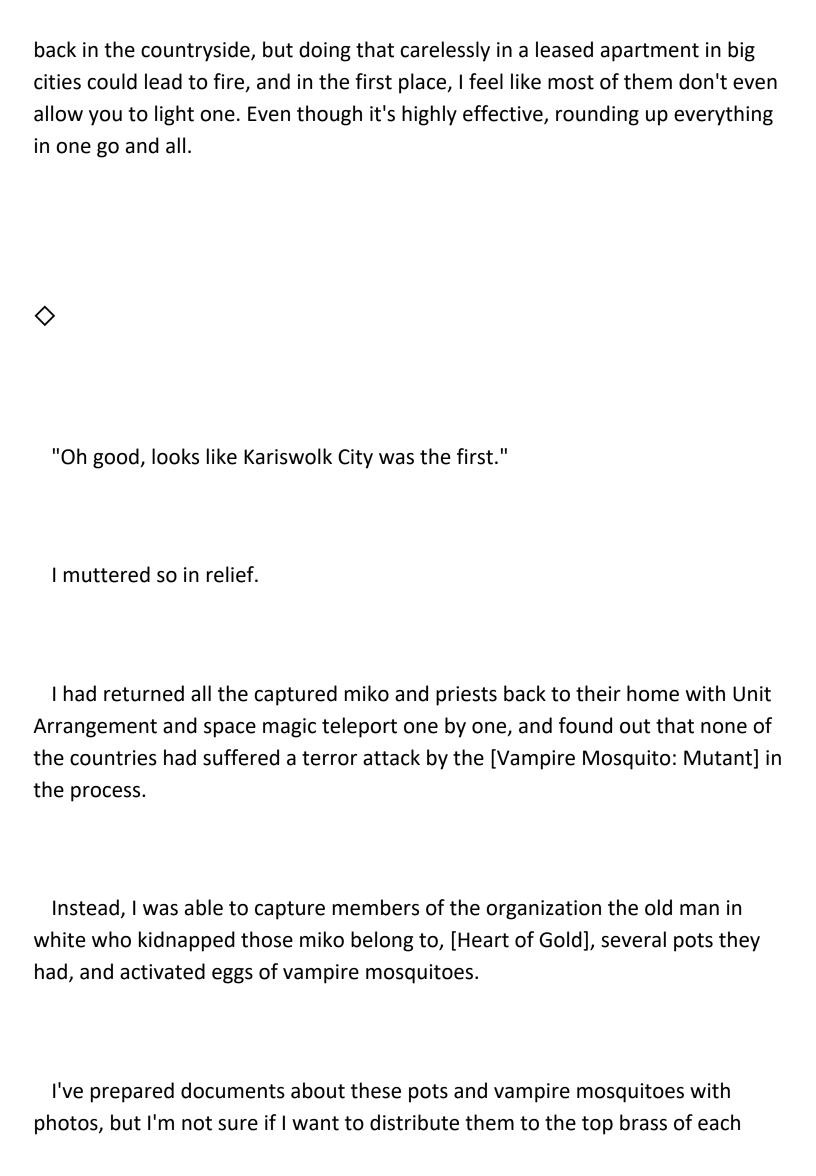
Next, the former miko and former priests who have turned into vampires were also attacked and abducted by undead when they went out of their respective temple.

Additionally, since the number of people who tried to commit suicide kept increasing among them, they have been restrained.

About half of them gave up trying to commit suicide after I told them that there might be a way to turn them back thanks to the research on [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead] at the Sage's Tower.

I should investigate whether the possibility is truly there at least, before a victim appeared among them.
Once we know that it's possible, it might be a good idea to let them handle the rest of investigation to turn them back.
Oh right.
I should check on the Vampire Mosquito and the cursed rat I caught along with those mosquito before going back.
The Vampire Mosquito have all died out, while the rat has turned into Vampire Rat.
There's no mistaking it, you turn into vampire after the curse has progressed enough.
This is bad.
I should exterminate them ahead of time.
16-57. Sage's Tower (6)

Satou here. We exterminate pest with fumigants in my grandfather's house



countries.

Because I'm afraid they would not only move behind the scene to obtain these mosquitoes, but they would also possibly use it to sow the seeds of disturbance during wars and such.

[Aah yeah, it's the norm for organizations who confiscated biological weapons to make use of it themselves in the past cold war too~]

But, Ichirou-nii. If you didn't inform those countries, wouldn't their people get in a huge trouble later on?

[Well yeah, guess so. How about hiding the information about Vampire Mosquitoes, and just tell them that the pots are the source of the curse? Tell 'em, like, "Demon lords are using this thing to curse the world!", and that the populace would be cursed unless the priests purify them with ritual magic.

I got those answers in the space magic [Tactical Talk] held between me, Arisa and Hikaru.

I've decided to adopt Arisa's idea, after destroying all the pots in every country, I'll send letters as Hero Nanashi of Shiga Kingdom to warn those countries about the pots and the possibility of the remnants scheming to terrorize their countries still at large.

But really, Ichirou-nii, your Unique Skill is really a cheat.

Hikaru said that jokingly, however, I could hear her faintly muttering, "If only I had a power like that back then...", when I was cutting the connection.

Not sure if it was during her hero or king days, Hikaru had her fair shares of hardships too it seems.

One of these days, I'll accompany her to talk about her past with some good booze and snacks for a night.



"Oy, oy, you've gotta be kidding me..."

[Heart of Gold] that kidnapped miko wasn't the only organization conspiring to carry out vampire mosquito terror attacks.

After a close investigation in the first area, I went around and teleported to each Maps on the continent while searching for vampire mosquitoes and [Heart of Gold] members, destroying their vampire mosquito terror plans, but in the midst of it, I started to find other secret societies like [Thorn of Truth], [Eye of

Mercury] and [Benefit Society].

Every one of them aren't connected in a terrorist network, most are acting as an independent organization.

However, all of them share one similarity.

The person who brought the vampire mosquitoes to these organizations had different names like [Comrae Don], [Member Nanya], [Seya the [Shadow Walker]], or [Hunt Master], but besides the fact that they had a foreign accent, no one even knew their face.

I have no clue if they're the same person or not, but it's pretty much confirmed that there's a mastermind who's pulling the strings behind all these terrorist organizations.

And if there's anyone who's capable of doing a villainous act as large scale as this--

"Well, it's those guys..."

The mastermind leader and tactician Touya who are lurking in the shadow of Saga Empire crossed my mind.

I know Touya and his cohorts' location and I've put markers on them so I won't lose sight of them, but I still haven't got a single lead on their leader.

Every one of these organizations has a regular meeting with the mastermind, a small man, and the closest one is [Heart of Gold]'s meeting in three days from now.

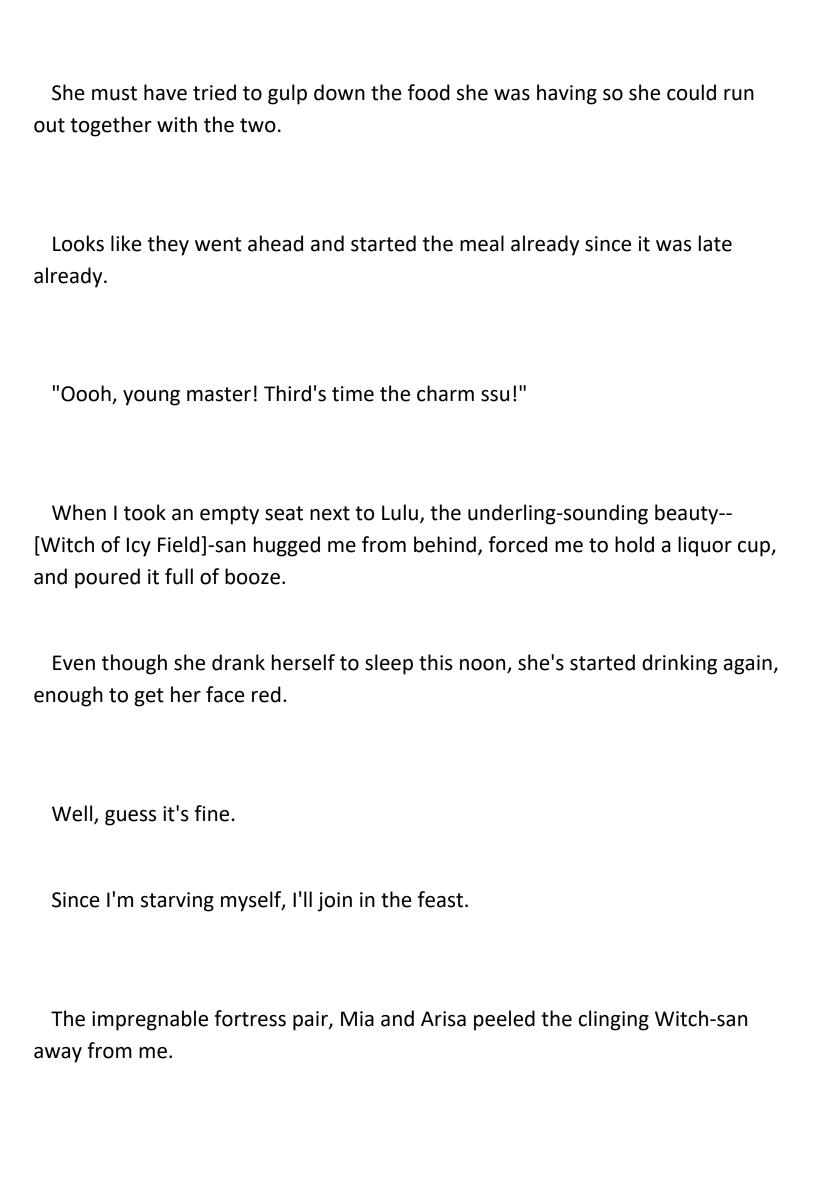
According to the documented plan I seized from them, the terror attack was planned to be done two days later at the [The Day before New Moon], apparently the incident at Kariswolk City happened earlier than planned due to an accident.

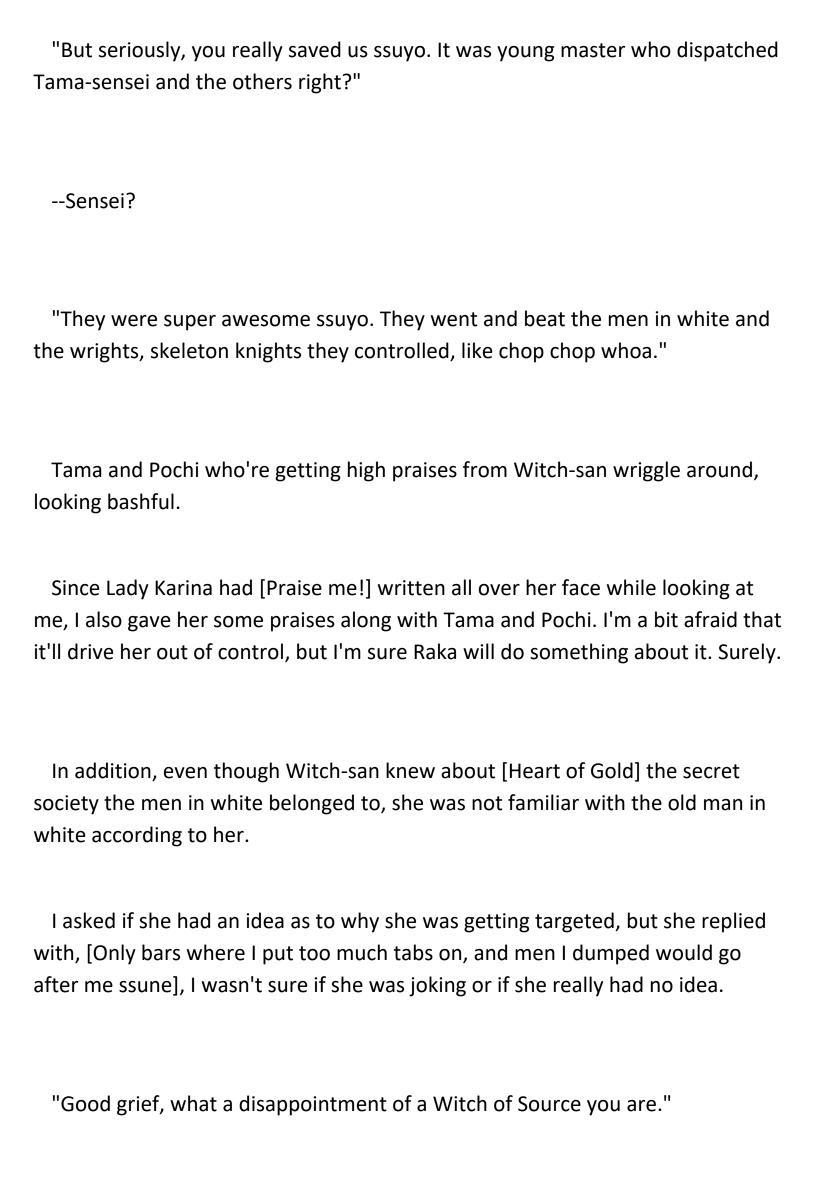
Either way, since the small mastermind might run away when he gets to Kariswolk city where [Heart of Gold] headquarters lie, I'll put up a barrier that can detect a rift in space at Kariswolk City.

I'll catch the tail of this stealthy mastermind this time.



It was already late in the day when I got back to the Solitary Island Palace to pick Hikaru up.
I feel a bit bad since I had promised to meet her in the noon.
"Good work out there, Ichirou-nii. No one but Ichirou-nii is capable of sensing and taking care of terrorist attacks in the entire world, all in a day work you know?"
You should be proud of yourself, says Hikaru.
While feeling slightly embarrassed to be watched by her admiring eyes, I took Hikaru along to Kariswolk City.
"Wlcome~"
"Satou."
Tama and Mia went and hugged me when I opened the diner's door.
I went inside while the two were coiling around me, and caught a sight of Liza bringing water to Pochi who had her mouth jammed with food.





"What are you saying ssuka. I'm nothing but a beauty when I'm away from the Source, you know."

"Who are you talking about! If you can't fight, then don't, could you stop exposing yourself to danger then? You can go back to the Source anytime you want anyway!"

The drunken Rakel-kun, pupil of the [Witch of Frost Covered Forest], picked a quarrel with the [Witch of Icy Field]-san.

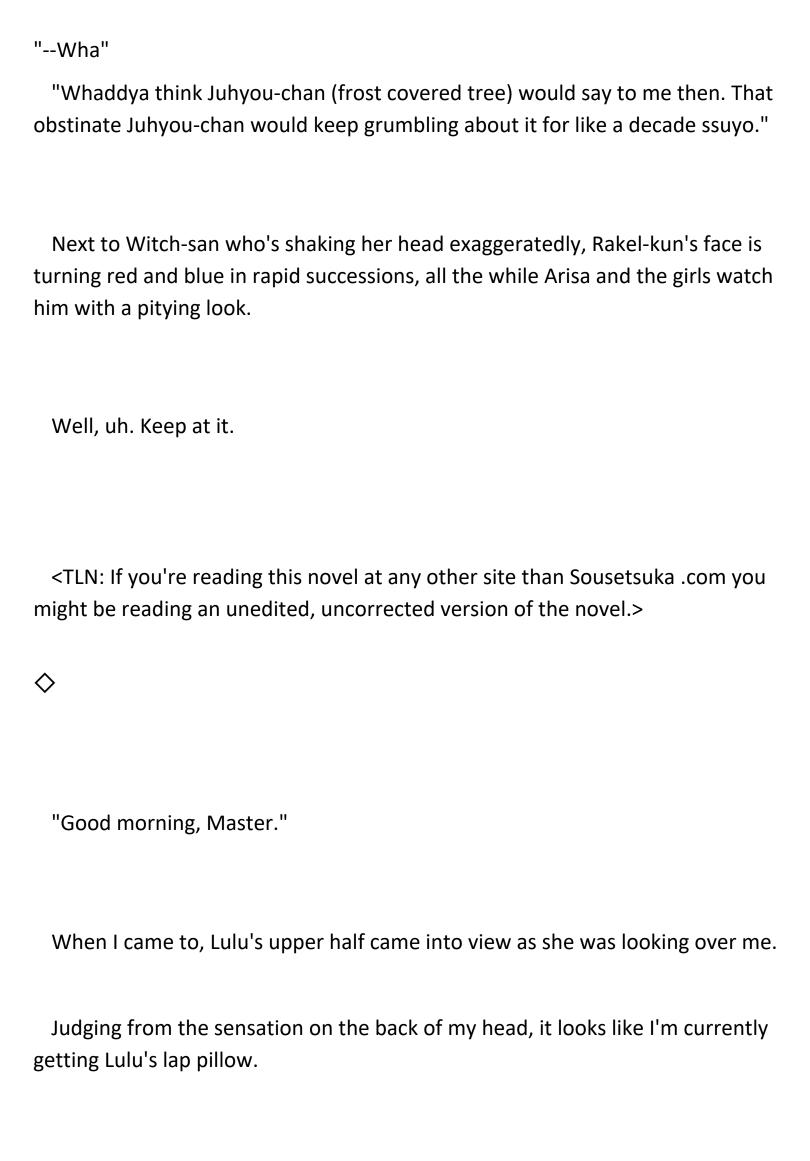
"But, I'm the only one who can go back y'know? I won't do that and leave Rakel-kun alone ssuyo."

Rakel-kun whose face was already red turned even redder.

The love-minded Arisa and Sera who are watching from the sidelines are getting fired up, "Love? Is this love?", "It must be!". Zena-san seems to be a good talker, she's naturally put herself among them.

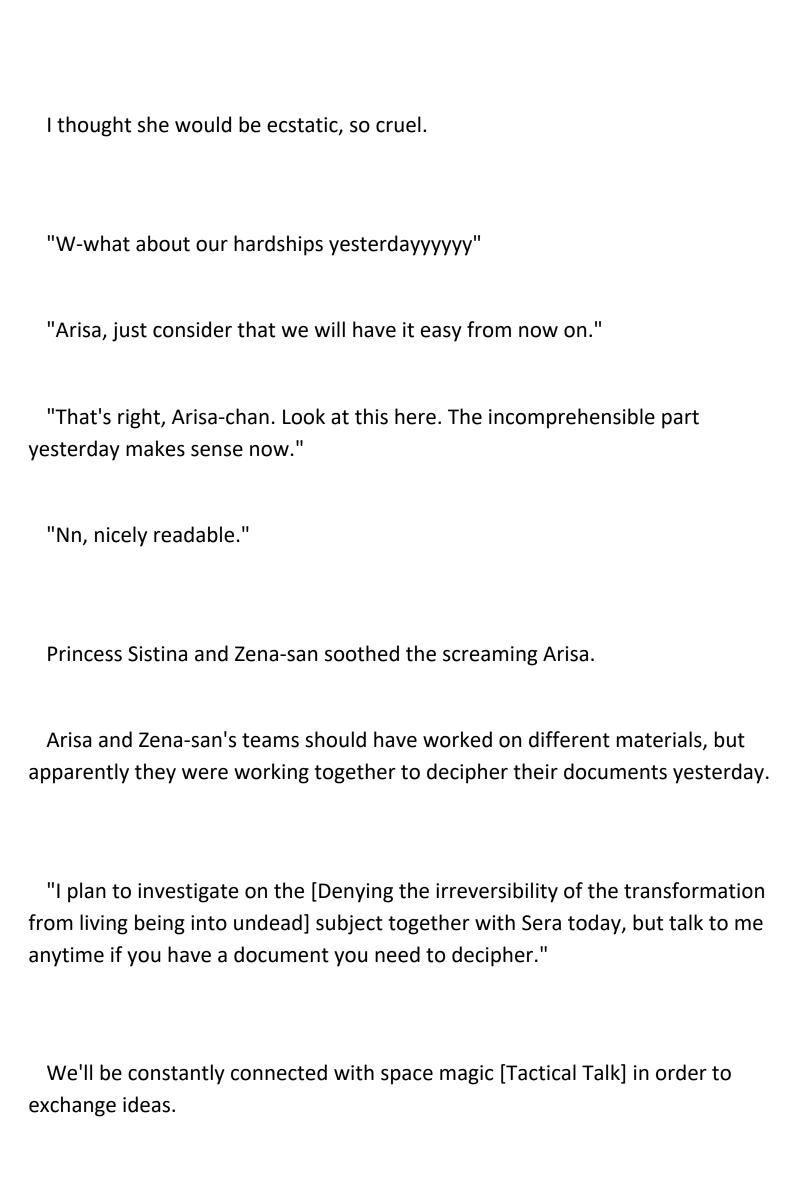
"Witch--"

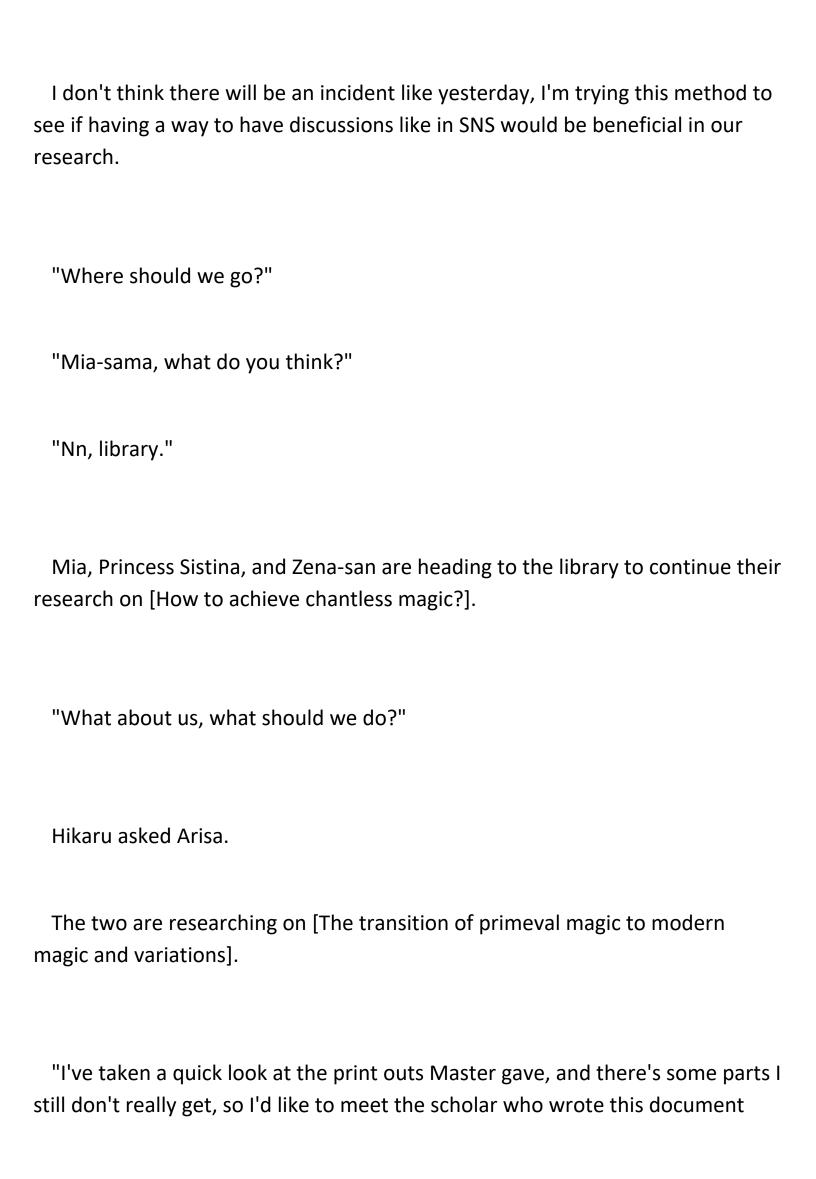
"I mean, the weak Rakel-kun would get done in real quick if he were alone ssuyo. Like, phoew."



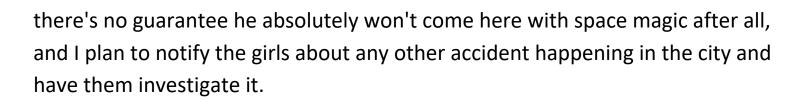
"Ah, good morning." Looks like I was tired, I apparently went asleep in the middle of the feast, unusually enough. Zena-san and liza apparently carried me to the bed. I'm loath to part with the soft pillow, but since there's a lot of things need to be done today, I muster the strength to get up. Then it hits me that I forgot to ask Witch-san, about the [Location where the Demon God is sealed at], but it's not really a critical information to have in a hurry, so there's no problem. I can ask about it before we leave this city anyway. From what she told me during the feast, she's having a business talk with her big investor today, she might turn me away if I go to her now, and most importantly, I'd just get in her way. "Thanks for waiting." "The dining room is over here."

After grooming myself, I went to the dining room with Lulu.
Since we still have two days before the small mastermind behind the vampire mosquito comes here, we plan to continue our research as originally planned in the meantime.
I ask Arisa and the girls' progress yesterday while enjoying our meal in the dining room.
"So you see, our research isn't going too well."
I'm told that they're having a trouble deciphering the scribbles of research materials.
I put the document I got from Arisa into Storage, tried to OCR it and it spat out normal character data, then I copied it onto Memo Pad, and printed out the copy into the Storage with Menu plug-in magic [Print Out].
Un, it's readable.
I hand it over to Arisa.
"Are you a PC!"









"Shall we be off then Satou-san."

Having my hand pulled by the all-smiles Sera, I stood up.

With a flustered look, Arisa frantically made a plea to Sera, "Just because you're two alone together, you can't push him down okay? You just can't okay."

Sera told her, "I know already" with a refreshing look on her face, but since Arisa still looked worried, I persuaded her by saying, [We're all connected through Tactical Talk, so you'll know if anything happens right?].

I put everything that was in the reference room at the top of Sage's Tower, and copied the content into Memo Pad.

I'm afraid of getting typo and stuff when transcribing if I use written copies so I've decided to use the original copy.

I print documents related to our research subject and ask Sera to closely examine them.



She's already working even though she just got abducted and was on the verge of death yesterday.

Looks like main temples have quite the black company environment.

"Could you let me see documents pertaining my research subject for the trial?"

"That would be fine. Your excellency are not only allowed to access the library restricted to scholars, but also the Sanctuary Library that are normally restricted to archbishops and high-ranking priests, where would you like me to guide you to?"

"First, to the library. If I can't find the document I need there, please take me to the Sanctuary Library."

I dunno if an outsider like me should be allowed to enter a library for high-ranking priests, but according Miko Maiya, it's customary for those who take on God Karion's trial to be given access to the Sanctuary Library, so it's fine.

The main temple shared a lot of documents with the ones in [Sage's Tower], but there were also a lot more documents peculiar to the temple pertaining undead and demons.

Especially about undead, when other temples stop at [Undeads are impure beings], here, some documents hypothesized that they might be flesh that contain highly concentrated miasma and negative feelings--or dead bodies that have undergone mutations.

Among the banned books and documents, there were results of experiments that tried to turn small animals into undead, but it's hard to say for sure whether the hypothesis earlier was correct or not from the results.

I bring all of those documents to check with Sera together.

"What's the difference between undead and monsters I wonder..."

Monsters are also plants and animals that have turned into monsters due to concentration of miasma and mana.

"Is it the magic cores?"

"Undeads have those too."

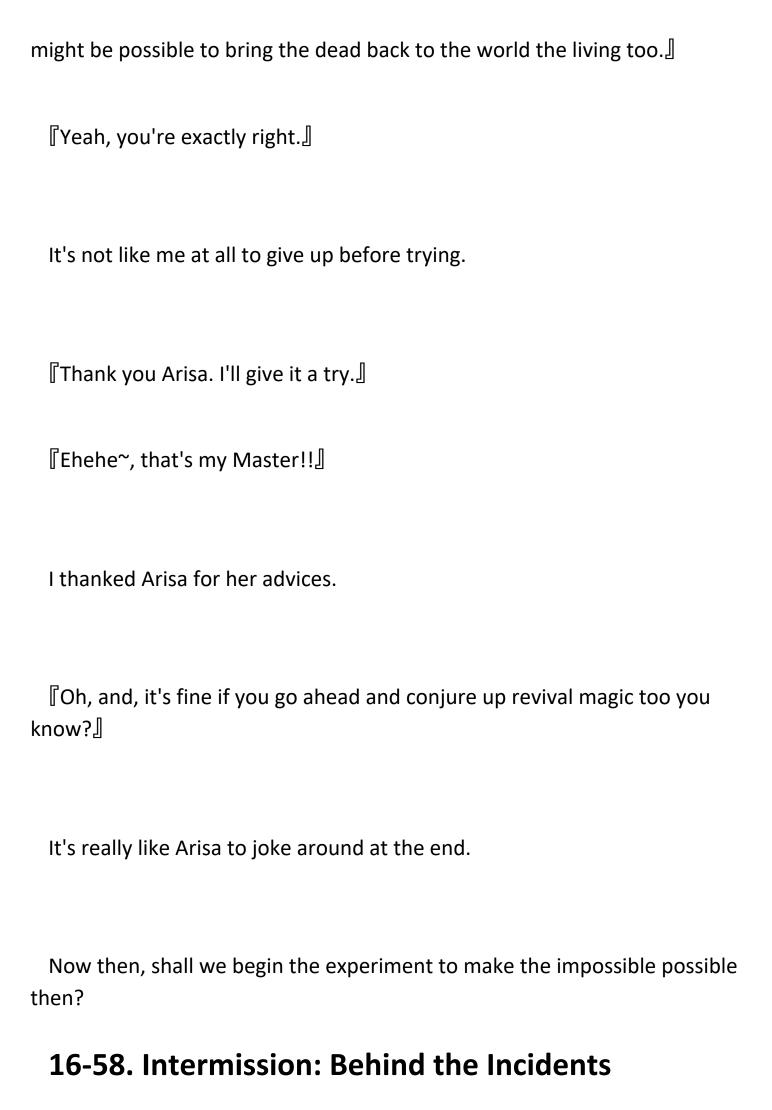
Undeads have magic cores too.

There exist pseudo-undead called [Accursed], and [Coreless] that can get generated when dead bodies are left in a dungeon, but they're not true undead, and more like beings of magical phenomena instead. "--Ah." Sera seemed to have hit on something. "Perhaps, they're one and the same?" "One and the same?" "Yes, the only difference is whether the base that undergoes the mutation is the living or the un-living..." The component needed for the transformation and the transformation process are the same huh.... "But then, that means..."

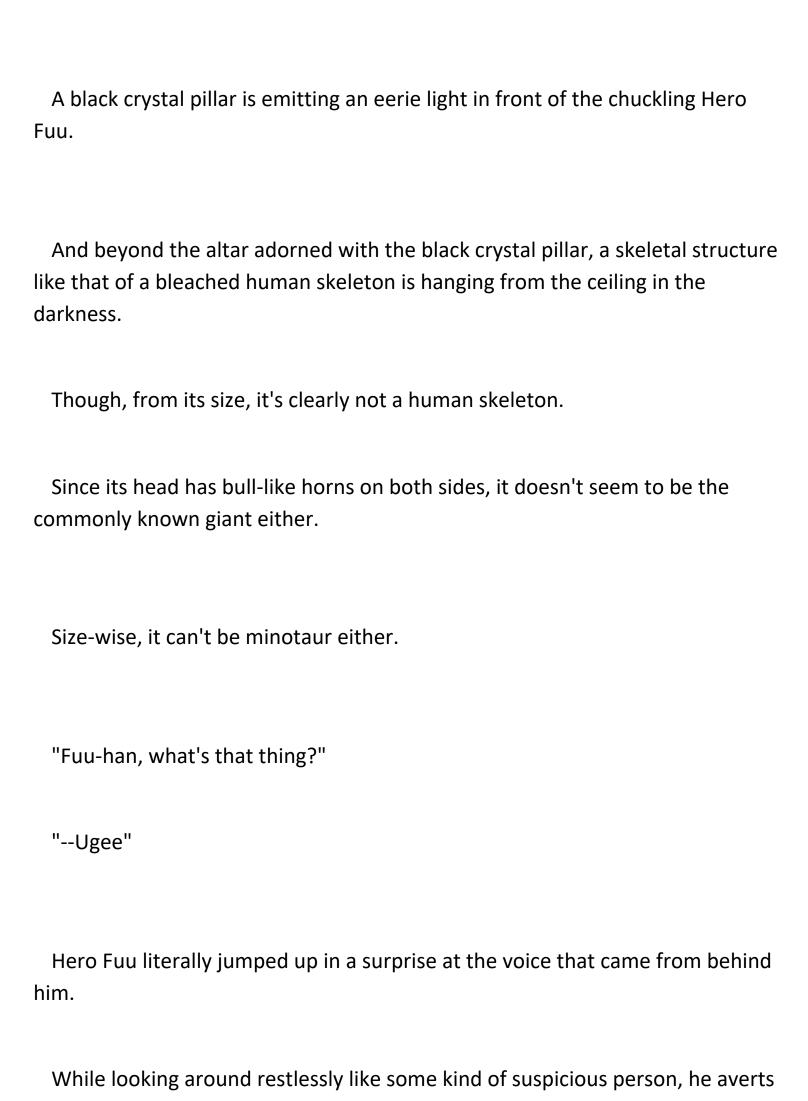
If those who have been vampirized--turned into undead are restored to their

Even those without physical body have them.

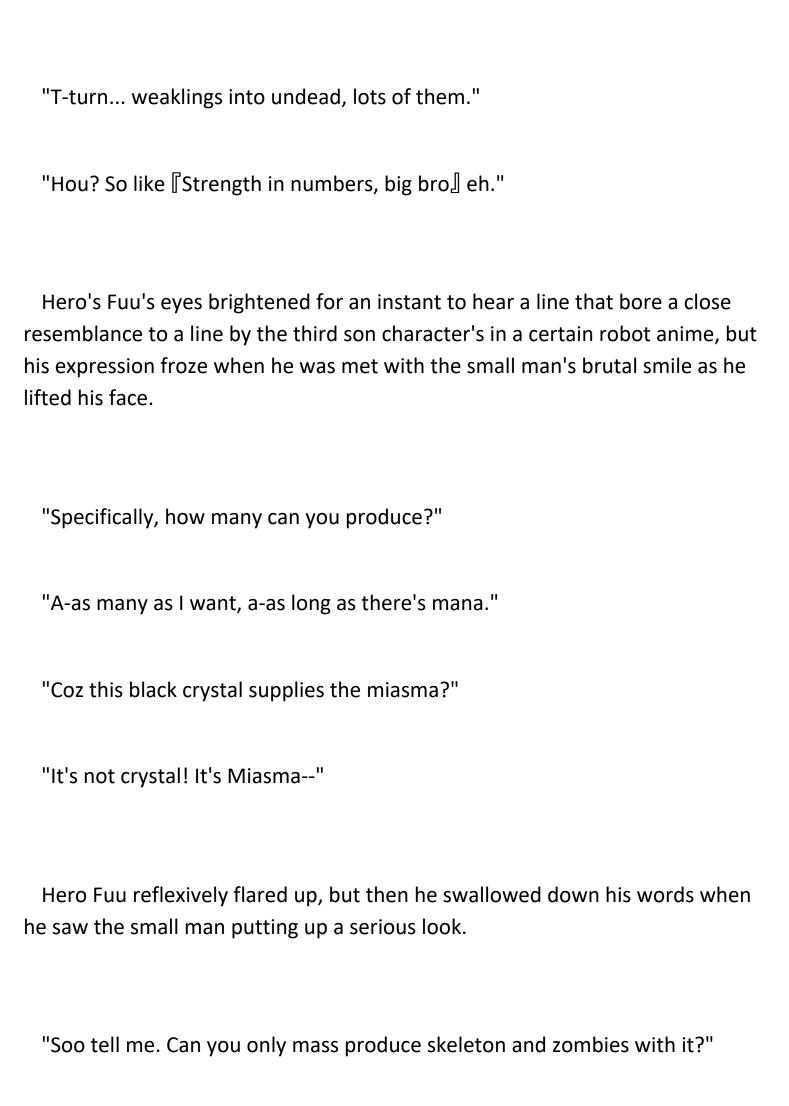


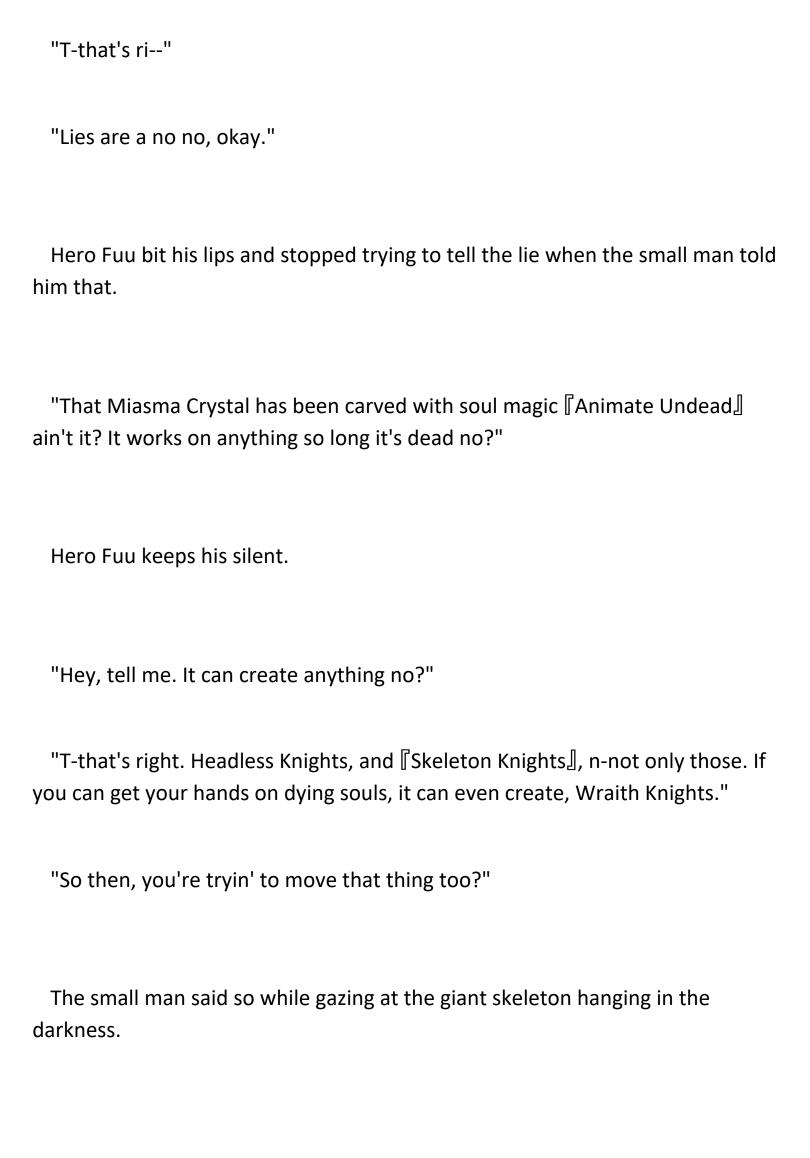


"Kukuku, with this I am now one step closer to realizing my ambitions."









п п ····
The small man laughed out loud at the silent Hero Fuu.
"Niice, as expected of Hero Fuu, yea. I ain't ever seen a hero as black as you. Yer' no different than that broken founder hero, yea."
The small man stroke the Miasma Crystal's smooth surface while muttering something that makes it sounds like he's acquainted with the founder hero.
"By the way, Fuu-han. How many of this thing can you mass produce?"
"M-mass produce? T-t-that one needs lots of mi-miasma on top of mana so"
"Impossible. Is not the word I want to hear."
"B-but without miasma"
The small man took many Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars out of Item Box and put them on the floor.

"Ain't me a clever boss? They were gathered by the mosquitoes Fuu-han gave

me last time. If we just had Shiga Kingdom's Chalice, we coulda made an Evil



"So, with this much pure miasma, how many soldiers can this Miasma Crystal create?"

"I-If you're fine with weaklings, around 10,000 a day. F-for those that can fight on par with oldinary, ordinary knights, around 300 units a day is doable."

"Hmmm. One of this is good for 10 skilled Soul Magicians huh... That's pretty niice."

The small man nodded in satisfaction to hear Hero Fuu's reply.

"By the way, can you make more of this Miasma Crystal?"

"I-I can... but. T-this much, miasma is not enough... I-I can't make more Miasma Crystal w-without this much."

"That so. Well, I've got an idea on how to get more miasma. We'd do the entire world next if the Vampire Mosquito experiments went well."

"D-don't tell me... I-Indiscriminately?"

"That right. Multiple terror acts in the entire world all at once! We'll paint the whole world in terror, despair and slaughter."

Hero Fuu inched back while looking frightened as the small man began to dance like a clown.

"I-if you do that... The world will end..."

"Nay nay, it ain't gonna be. That's what heroes are for. That's what Saga Empire is for."

"--Eh?"

"If it did get destroyed, I ain't get to play for awhile no? I'm gonna enjoy it without going too far this time, and stop once we've got plenty of miasma in Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars yeap."

The small man boasted, "Stoppin' 'rite before it's completely destroyed is how pros do their job."

"Besides, our main goal this time is to undo the seal binding Milord-san, that why we're polluting the world, collecting miasma."

"M-Milord-san?"

"Yeap, once Milord-san's seal comes undone, it's time to party. With Milord-san leading, army of hell gonna march into God's Realm and wreak havoc there. Aah... can't wait for it. So long Milord-san is around, I can keep getting back from hell, and fighting gods and apostles to death."

Hero Fuu who realized that the small man was not joking around is trembling with a pale face.

His eyes was frantically looking for a way to get out of this place.

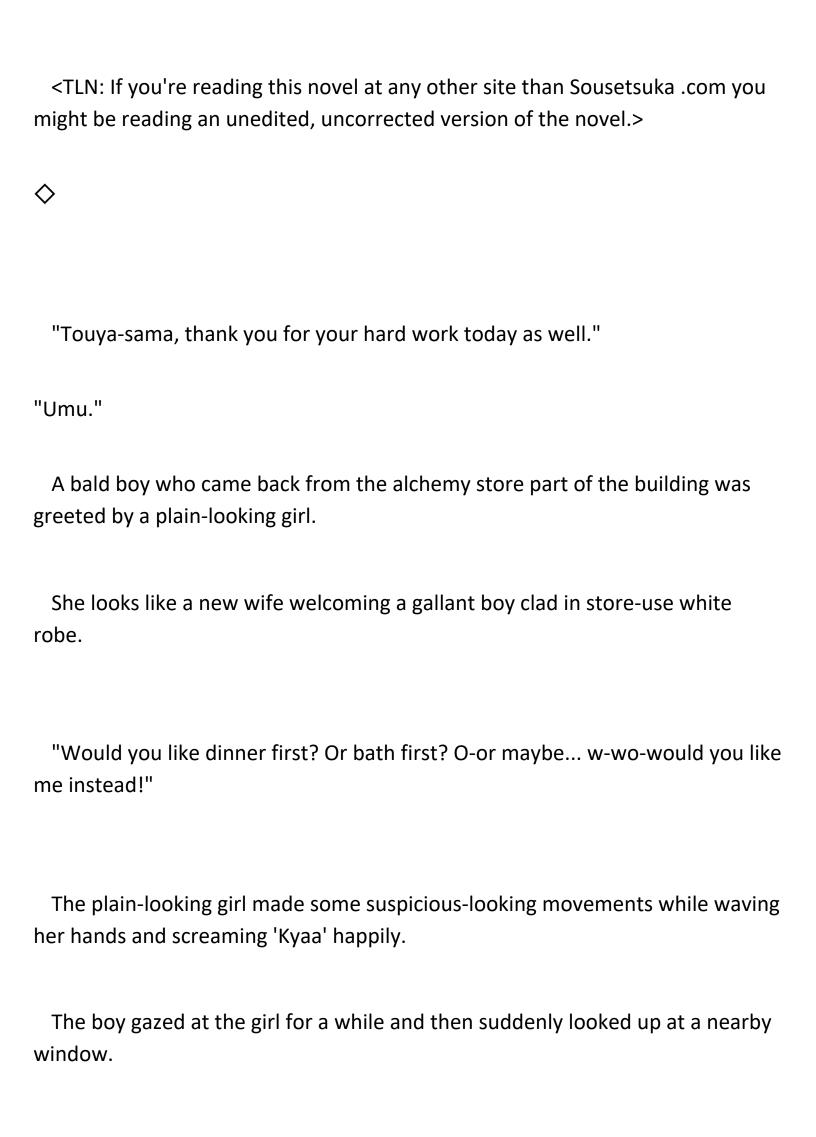
"No need to look so worried there. So long you ain't gonna stand in ma way, I ain't gonna kill you. There's that agreement too, gotta try to not lay my hands on those connected to loli goddess as much as possible."

Hero Fuu could only frantically nod with a forced smile at the small man who said that with an extremely un-relieving face.

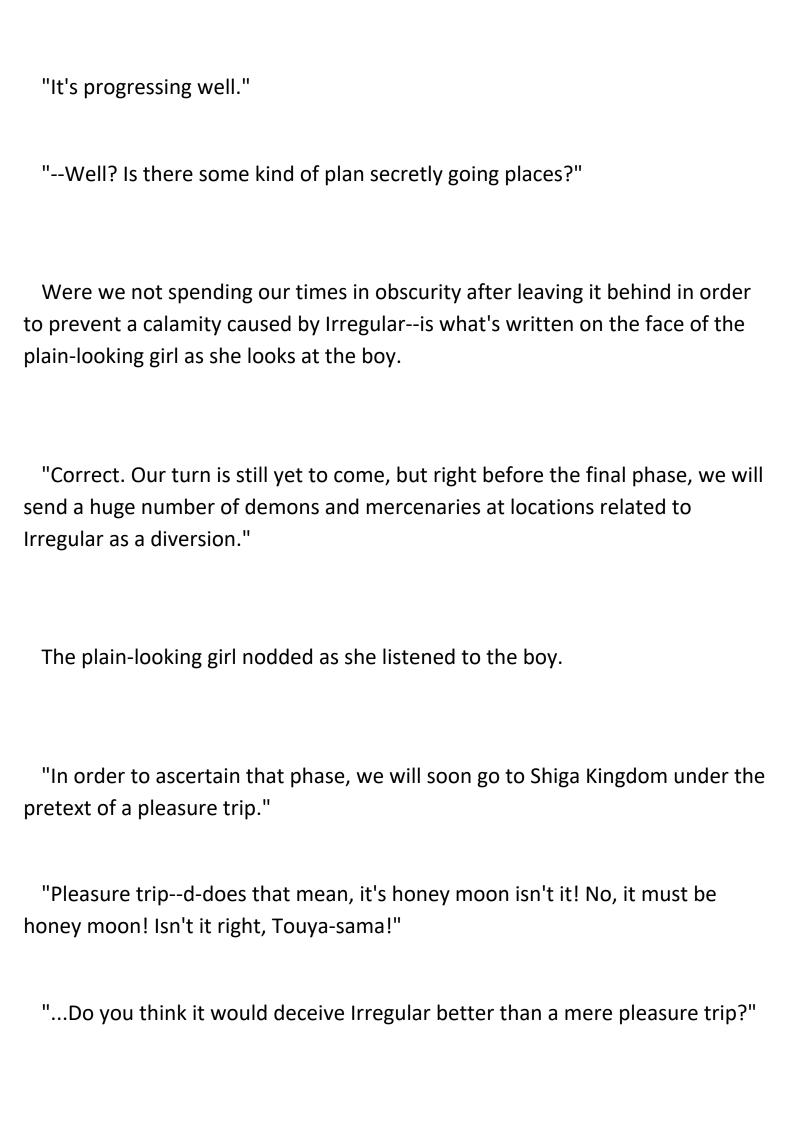
After looking at him in satisfaction, the small man floated out a fiendish smile at the frightened Hero Fuu while saying, "Yea, loli goddess herself is necessary 'fter all."

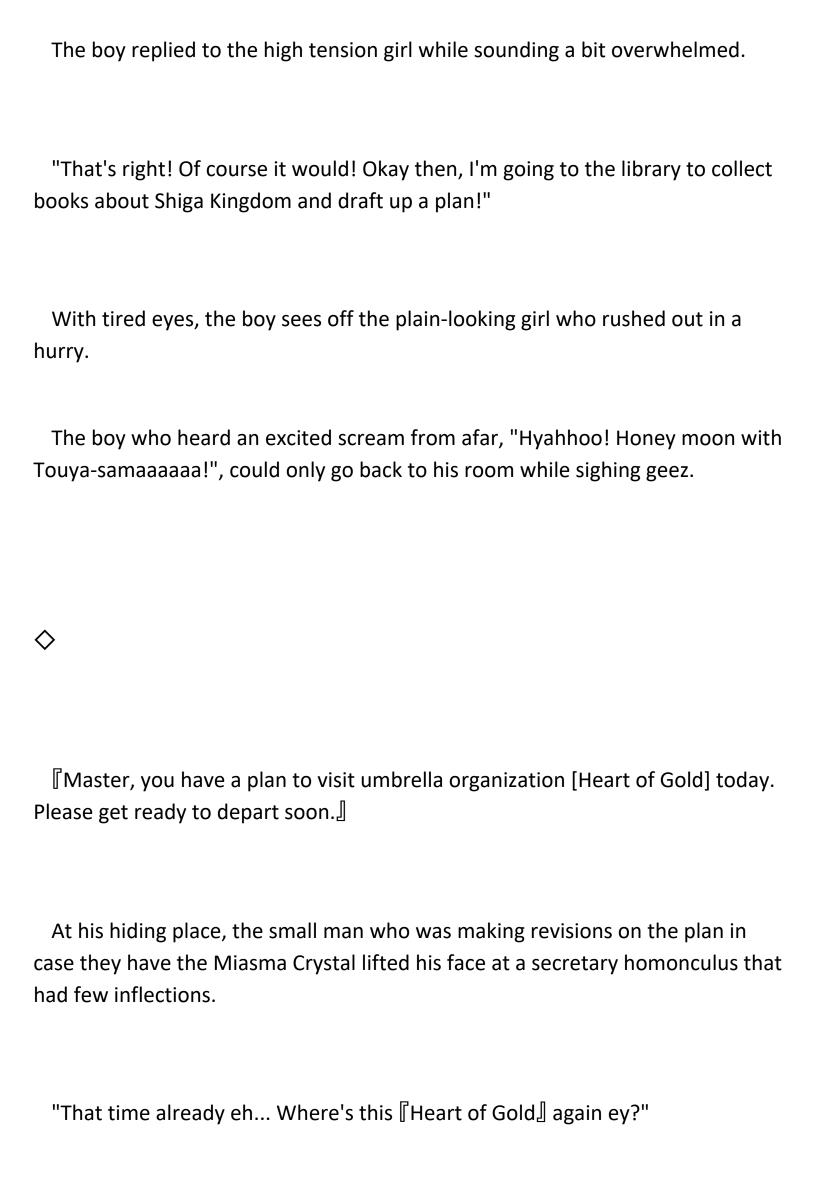
"Oops, that took long 'nuff. Well then, Fuu-han, I'm gonna keep bringing ya Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars full of miasma, make lotsa of those Miasma Crystals for me m'kay."

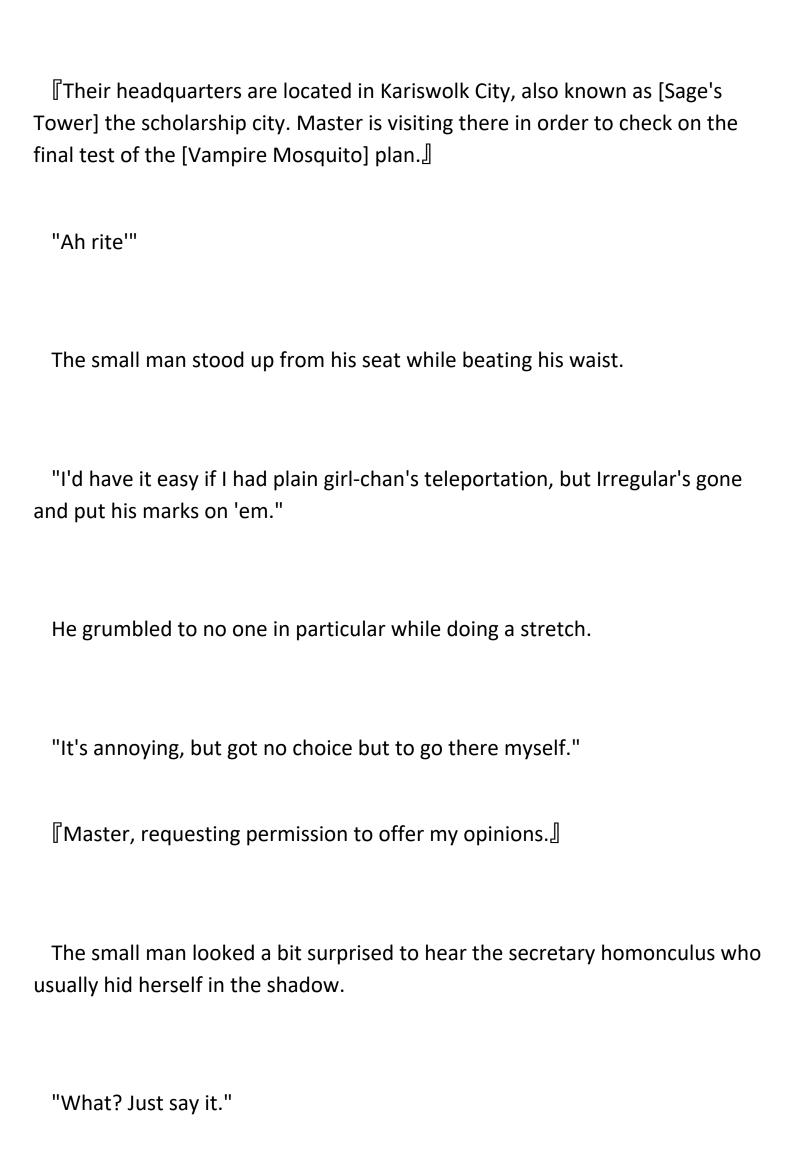
Without waiting for Hero Fuu's response, the small man turned back and went away while waving his hand.

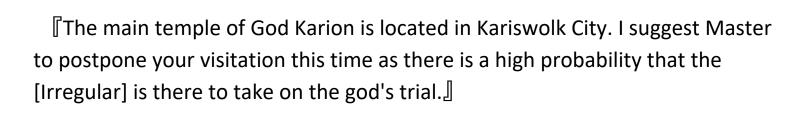


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"--Who's there."
 [Letter, brought, here]
 A human-faced crow perching on the window frame skillfully untied a letter
on its leg, dropped it inside the room and disappeared into gray smoke.
  "It's gone--was that a summoned bird?"
  "That's likely the case."
 After picking up the letter and reading over it, the boy let the letter touch a
ring adorned with a fire crystal on his finger, then it turned into ash in an
instant.
 "...Is that from Chief?"
  "Yeah, that's right."
 To be more exact, it was from one of umbrella organizations their Chief
created, but the boy affirmed without going into detail.
```









"Whoa, that's baaad."

After saying that, the small man puts his hand on his chin and ponders.

"Sorry but can ya go to the lab and take a few homonculus specialized in infiltration out of their cylinders."

"Understood."

After making sure that the secretary homonculus has left, the small man takes out a purple summoning gem from [Inventory].

He poured mana into the summoning gem and threw it down on the ground, afterward a purple magic circle appeared around the gem then an ultramarine colored demon showed itself up in the center.

It's a huge demon in military uniform carrying a blade spear.



Demons must find sacred Treasures of the seven pillar gods deplorable.

"Master I have brought five homonculus with me."

"Nice timing yea. And you've administered correction drug on 'em too. Means they can sortie' out anytime ey."

After appraising the five homonculus for infiltration the secretary homonculus brought, the small man nodded in satisfaction and took three [Magic Bags] from the still-open [Inventory].

"These guys will be in charge of securing the Sacred Treasure, so take 'em along with you to Parion Holy Land. They'll act separately from you, so you can go back once yer' done with the destroyin'."

After seeing off the demon disappearing into its own sub-space along with the three homonculus wrapped in its barrier, the small man started his preparations to depart himself.

"Master, you intend to divert Irregular's attention to the greater demon, and use that chance to hold the meeting, don't you."

"That 'rite. Not sure if Irregular would notice it tho', so I've prepared about 2-

3 camouflages s'well."

After saying that, the small man tests out several stealth skills until the time of appointment.

"Man, this stuff is really tiring. Even though it can delude even Dog-head and Wild Boar King and their sharp intuitions, I cannae' hold it fer' long, gotta, like, make it easier to use..."

"Master, in order to prevent the tomfoolery of getting yourself detected by Irregular, you should perfect it, so I propose."

"Yeap."

The small man gave an unenthusiastic reply to the serious secretary homonculus.

"Imma just use recognition inhibition artifact along with it aand done, should be a flawless victory."

After equipping several equipment taken from [Inventory], and using multiple layers of tricks, the small man departed his hideout toward Kariswolk City.

Unaware of the trap laid out by the aforementioned Irregular waiting for him...

16-59. Sage's Tower (7)

"Suicide bombing at Echigoya's main headquarter?"

"Yes. However, thanks to Reilas-sama who was visiting by chance, none of the store personnels nor our visitors was injured. Many were wounded, but they've all already recovered thanks to magic potions and magicians belonging to hq."

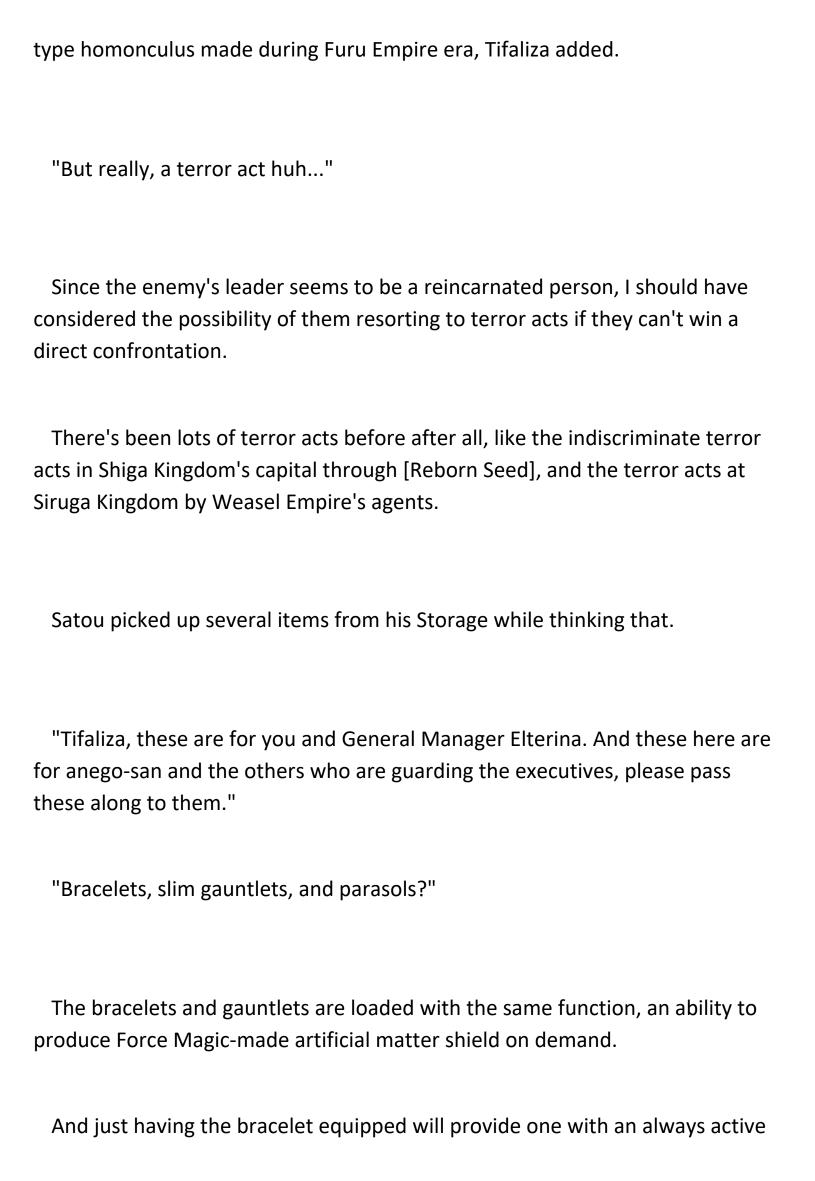
Satou and Sera who had returned to the solitary island palace for a lunch break got a report from Tifaliza, the general manager's secretary of Echigoya Firm.

Apparently, the holy shield user of Shiga Eight Swords, Reilas-dono was dropping by to make an adjustment on his new armor equipped with Armor Expansion and quasi-type [Fortress] functions that was provided to him through Echigoya Firm.

Gotta remember to say my thanks as Kuro later.

"We couldn't save the person who performed the suicide bombing, however, since we found internal organs that couldn't have been belonged to human from the remains, we had someone with Appraisal skill to check on it, and identified that it was a homonculus."

And it's not the commonly seen modern homonculus, but an ancient battle-



defensive wall that's sturdier than [Physical Defensive Buff] by a skilled magician, I should instruct them to have it equipped at all times besides when they're going on a trip.

As for the parasols, [Umbrellas] are defensive items installed with [Fortress] experimental magic circuit.

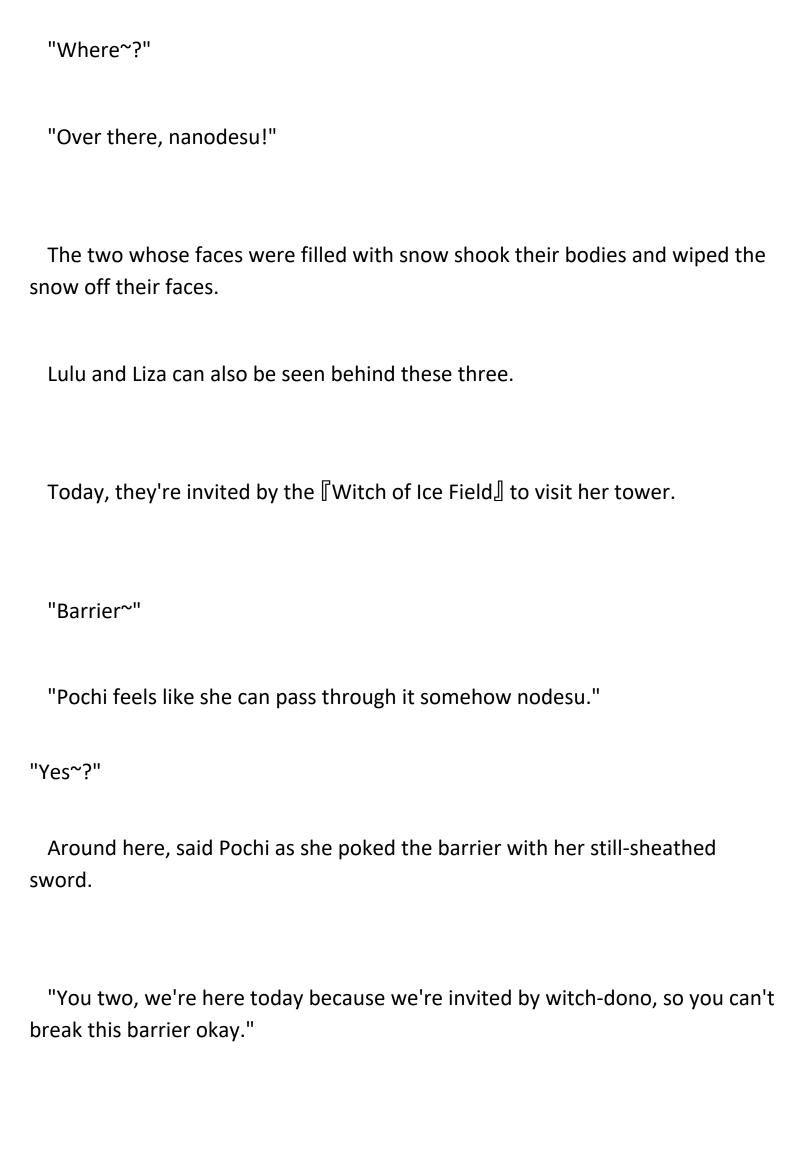
The defensive power is only about 20% of the real [Fortress], but I think it's more than sufficient enough against ordinary terrorists.

The king, the prime minister, Marquis Muno and Nina-san are probably going to be targeted too, maybe I should mass produce and pass these to them through Echigoya Firm.



"I can see it!"

Lady Karina who looked up and saw a tower beyond the snow field called out to Pochi and Tama who were playing around by chasing a snow rabbit.



Liza rebuked Tama and Pochi. If they use the barrier-breaking Dragon Fang Swords, joking aside, they could really break most barriers out there if they wanted to. "Witch-san is here for us." Lulu called everyone. "Thanks for waiting ssu. Oh? Is Sir Satou not coming along?" "Yes, master is a bit busy at the moment." "Really ssu..." The witch dropped her shoulders while muttering, 'And I thought I could talk about Demon God-sama all days with him.' "Master was looking forward to this visitation too, I am sure he will come too once he's taken care of his business." "You think sso to? I've gone and borrowed materials about Underworld his excellency was interested in from Juhyou-chan after all, he's gotta come ssuyo."



"U~n."

At the Sage's Tower Library, Arisa groaned while looking at the ceiling with a pen between her upper lip and nose.

Hikaru who's reading documents next to Arisa is also racking her brain over their difficult research subject, [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations].

"You think Mia's group has made a progress?"

"From what I heard from Zena after breakfast earlier, they're completely stuck at chantless magic since there's too few documents about it, but they're making progress on the differences in bodily sensation between the usage/non-usage of Chant Shortening skill, it seems."

"I see~ No wonder all these problems remain unsolved for more than 100 years."

After sighing so, Arisa suggested to focus their research on the transition part of [Transitions and Variations], since it seemed they could make an analogical reasoning about it from the materials they had on hands.

"About the transition periods, it's said that the propagation was not like the common slope shape, but more like stairs with stages in between."

"We know the propagation had stages because the transmission of information's speed periodically halted at countries' borders looking at the map."

The two draw different periods of propagation with colored pen, that Satou carefully made, on a transcribed map of the continent.

And they managed to draw several things from the visualized information.

"And if we trace that all the way back, the starting point was the [Dragon's Valley] to the north of Orc Empire..."

"Is it Dragon God-sama's work?"

"Or perhaps, Orc Empire was the original developer..."

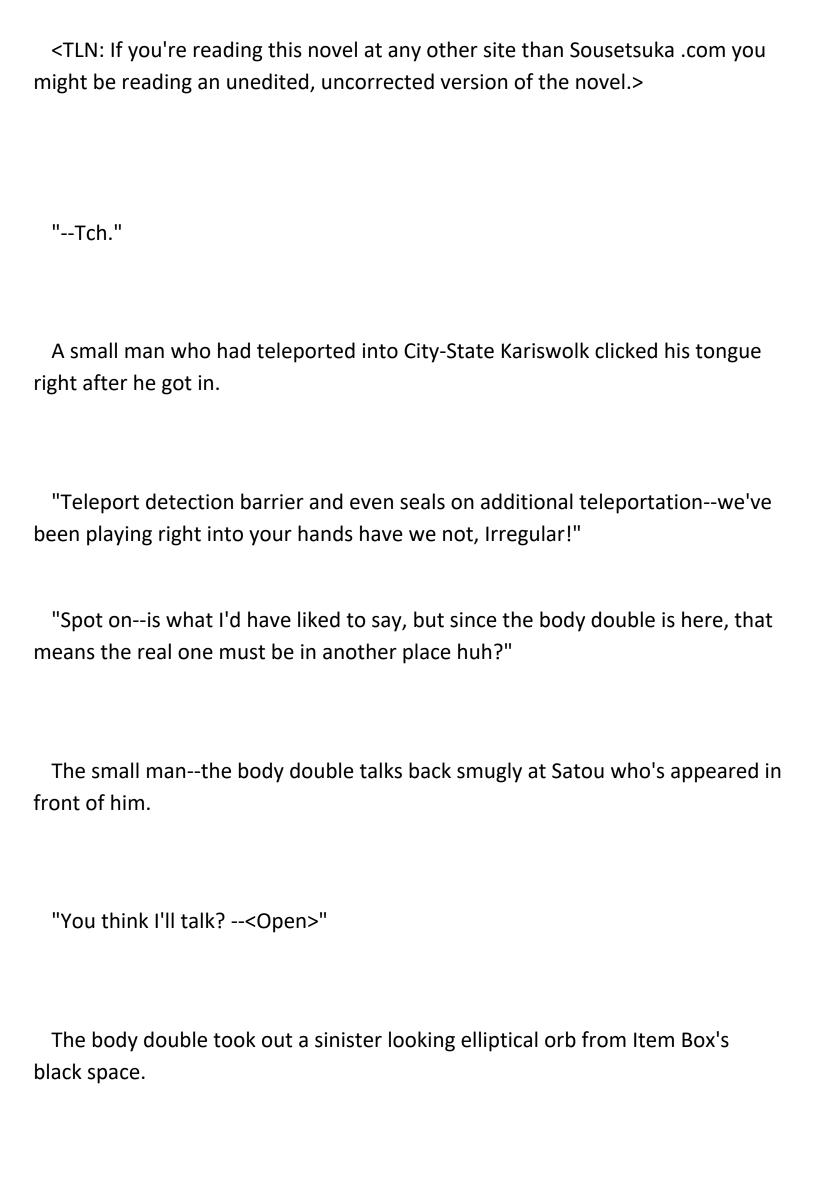
If it were the former, there should have been legends and myths about Dragon God being the founder of modern magic.

The witch insisted that Demon God was the founder, but from what the two investigated, even though there were documents hinting to that, there was

close to zero that clearly gave an affirmation.
"There's barely nothing about the variation point, but it's clear that primeval magic is completely different than what we use today."
"Un. Compared to modern magic, Primeval Magic consumes extraordinary amount of mp, takes way too long to be cast, and you don't get headaches nor nausea like when you're trying to use magic without the corresponding elemental skill."
Hikaru agreed with Arisa's remark.
With Satou's guidance, the two have managed to cast simple primeval magic.
Though, on top of taking a long time, it's at a level of [got it cast somehow], so it has zero practical use.
"But there's too few documents about Orc Empire."
"Nothing we can do about that"
Hikaru lets out a lonely smile.

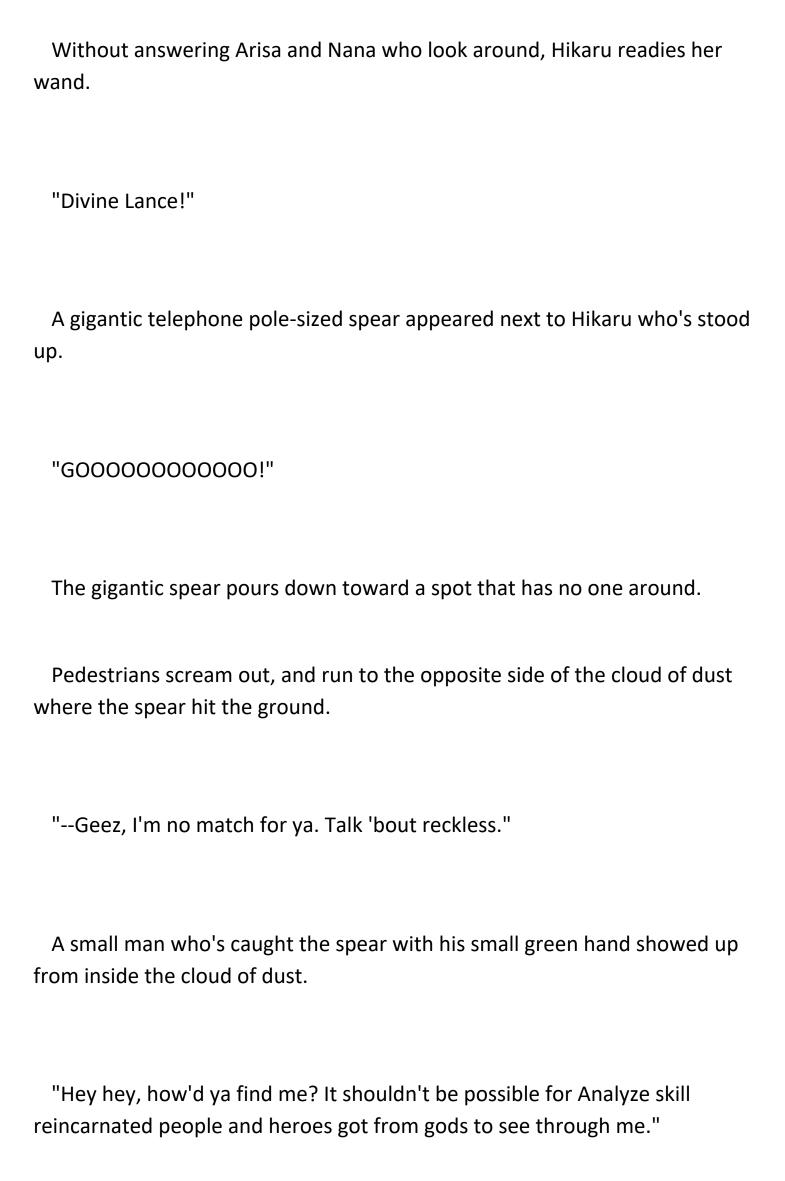


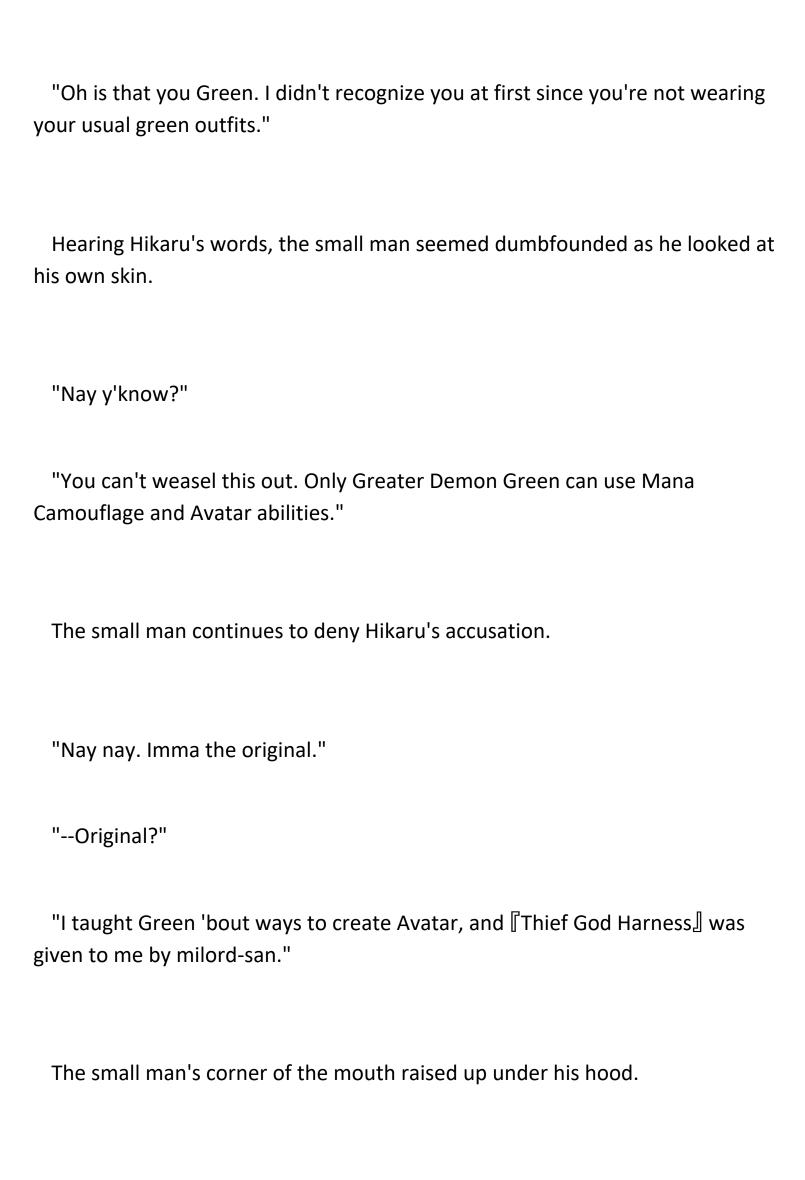


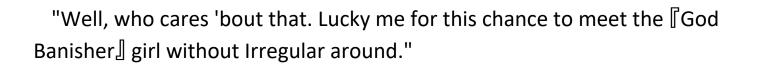


"Death"
Just before the body double could finish talking, Satou jumped into his bosom with Ground Shrink and put the elliptical orb into his Storage all the while neutralizing the man.
[Fool]
The moment an echoing voice resounded from the body double's chest, a white flash and an explosion rivaling that of an advanced magic swallowed the surroundings in.
【Kukakakaka, you moved exactly like Chief-dono said you would, truly laughable, Irregular.』
A single Wraith Lord floated up at the place where the body double was.
[There is nothing alive that could withstand the [Cursed Flame of Kwaku]. Lament over it in hell, Irregular!]
The city that has turned into rubble is sunk in the flames.









"You shall not lay your hands on Arisa so I announce."

Nana moves forward with a huge shield as if guarding Arisa from the small man's line of sight.

"I ain't gonna do that for the time bein', ya can rest assured."

He sighed as Nana didn't seem like she would relent, and then continued to prattle on.

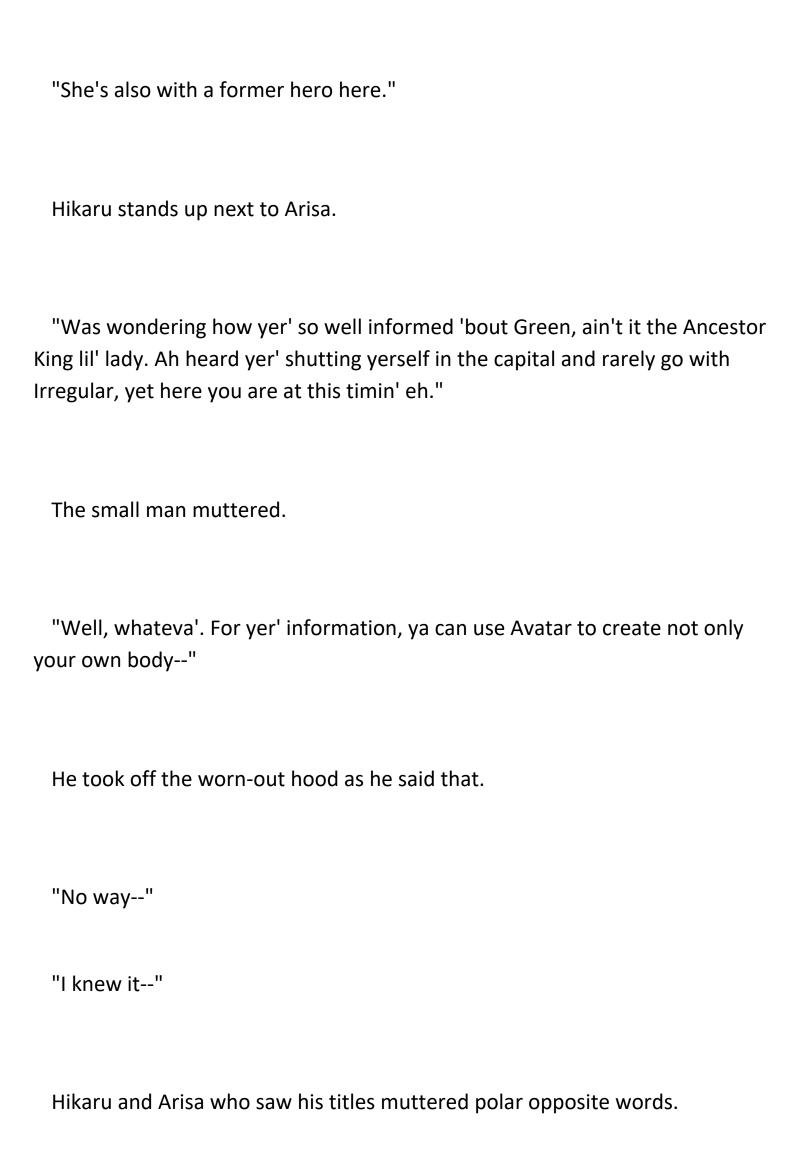
"So, Arisa-han. I'll give ya half of the world, come over to our group will ya?"

"Out of question. Like there's still anyone who'd fall for that straight-to-badend route nowadays."

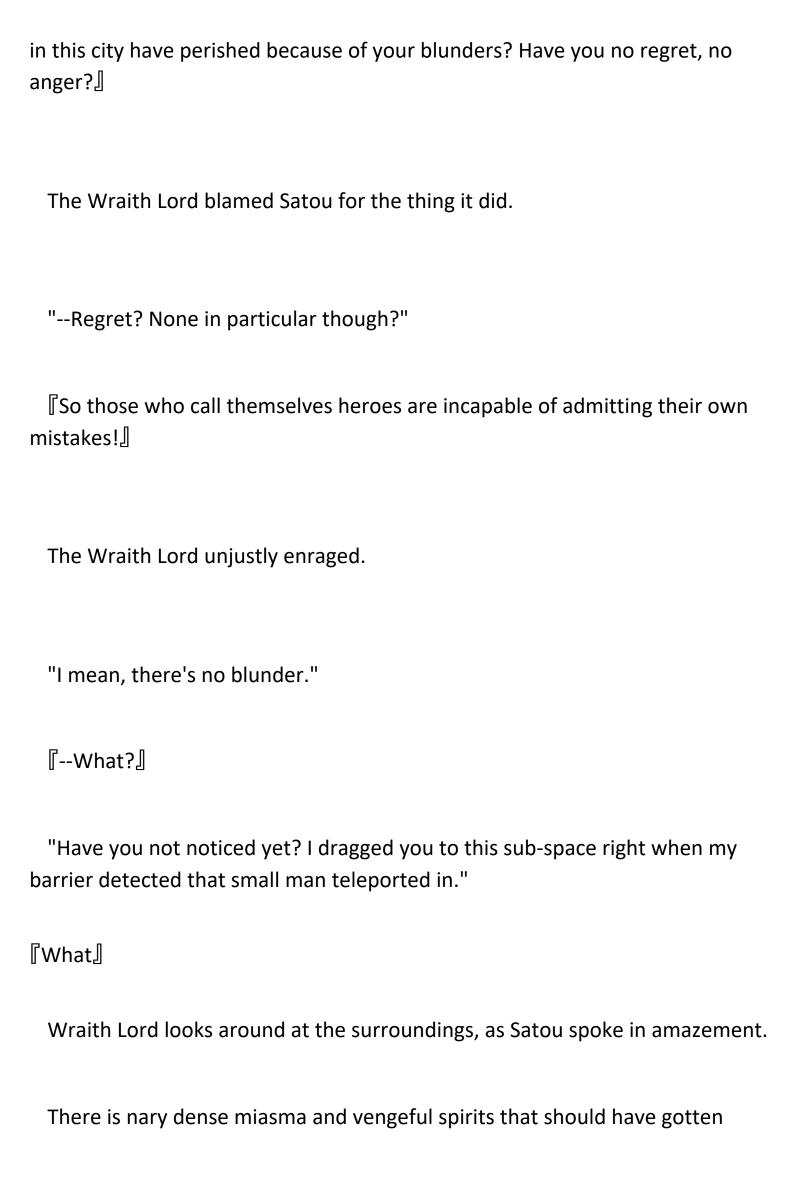
"Really now. Then how 'bout the whole round world? Wealth, fame, good food, good men, ya can have anything you want. I'm serious 'ere, that just how valuable a magician that can overwhelm gods is."

"My answer will not change no matter how many times you ask. I won't ever

leave Master's side, ever!"
Arisa refused the small man's temptation without a hint of hesitation.
"That's some spirit a'ight. But y'know, you can even obtain your beloved man's heart if you come with me. How 'bout that? You could monopolize a fickle man for yerself alone."
"Hmph, would you please stop making fools of Arisa-chan! MasterSatou's heart, Arisa-chan will get it with her own powers!"
Arisa gallantly shouted at the man.
"Izzat so. 'K then, go fer' it."
Since the negotiation failed, the small man turned on his heel.
"I'mma excuse myself before Irregular comes here. Since yer' all here, the vampirification plan musta been spoiled no?"
"You think we'll let you? I'd like to see you try running away from a space magician."

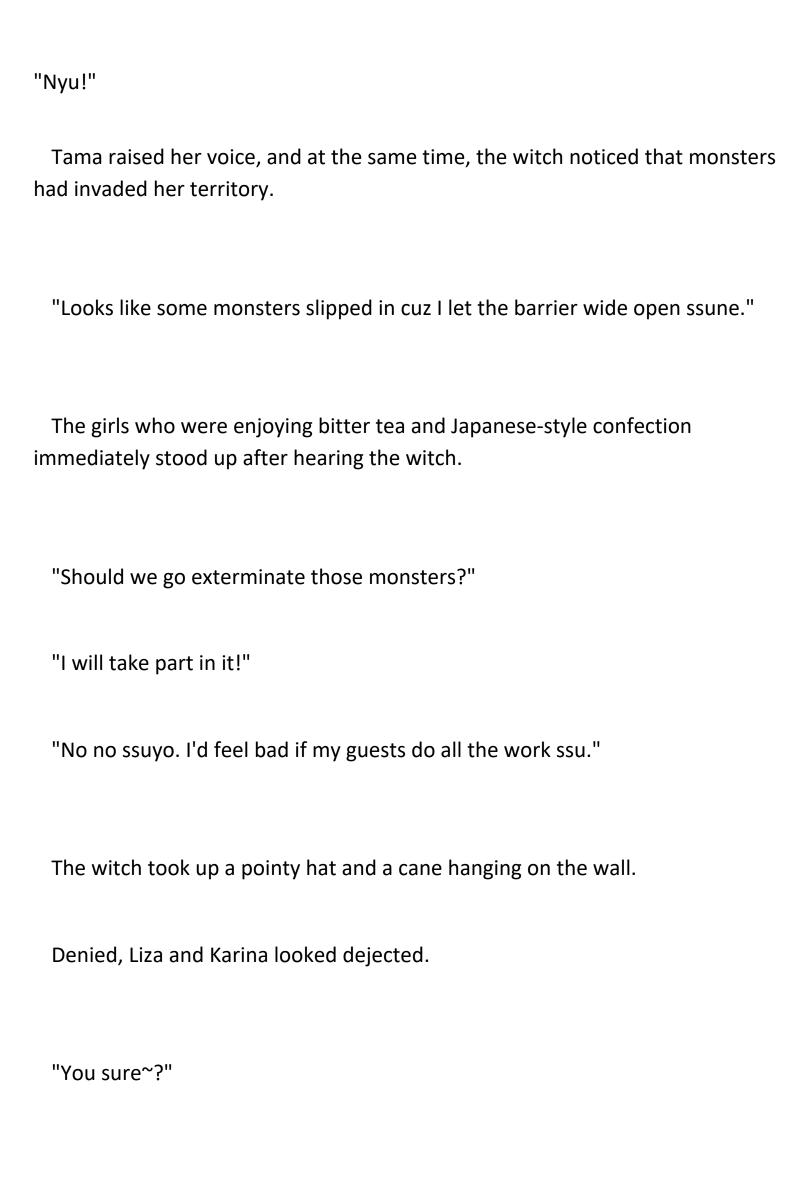




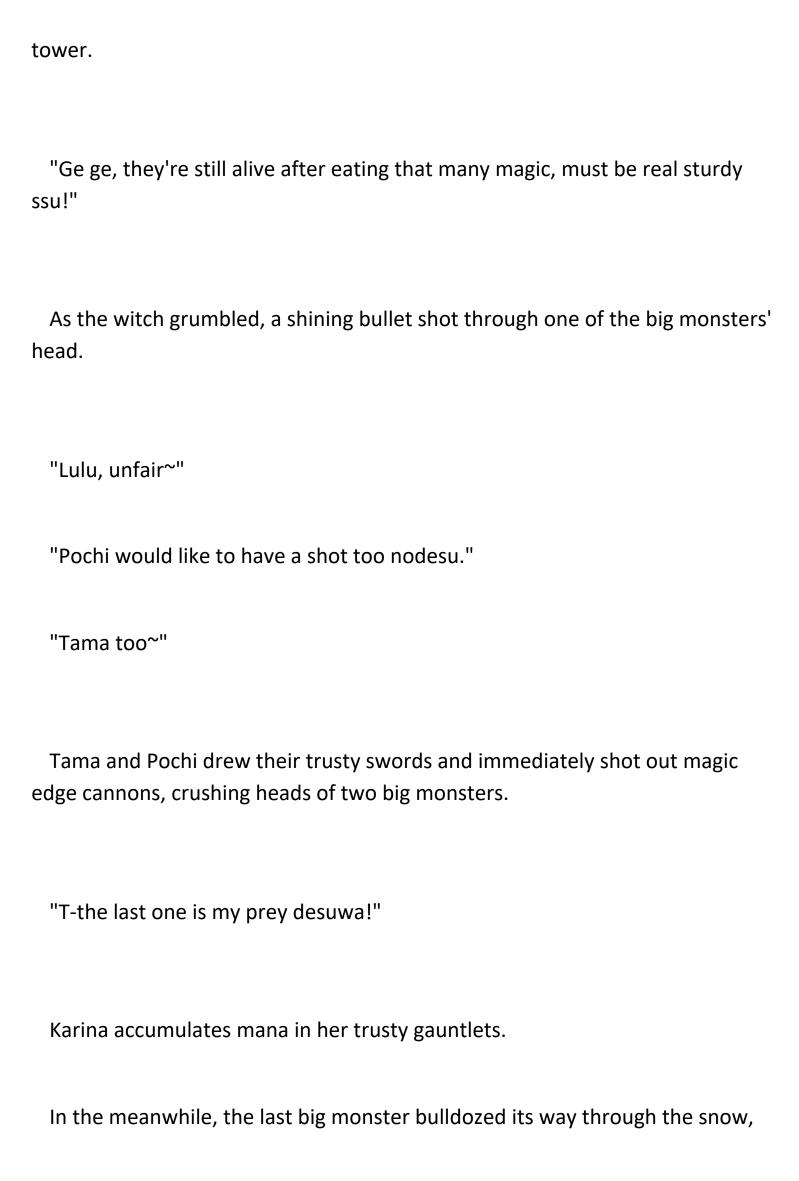






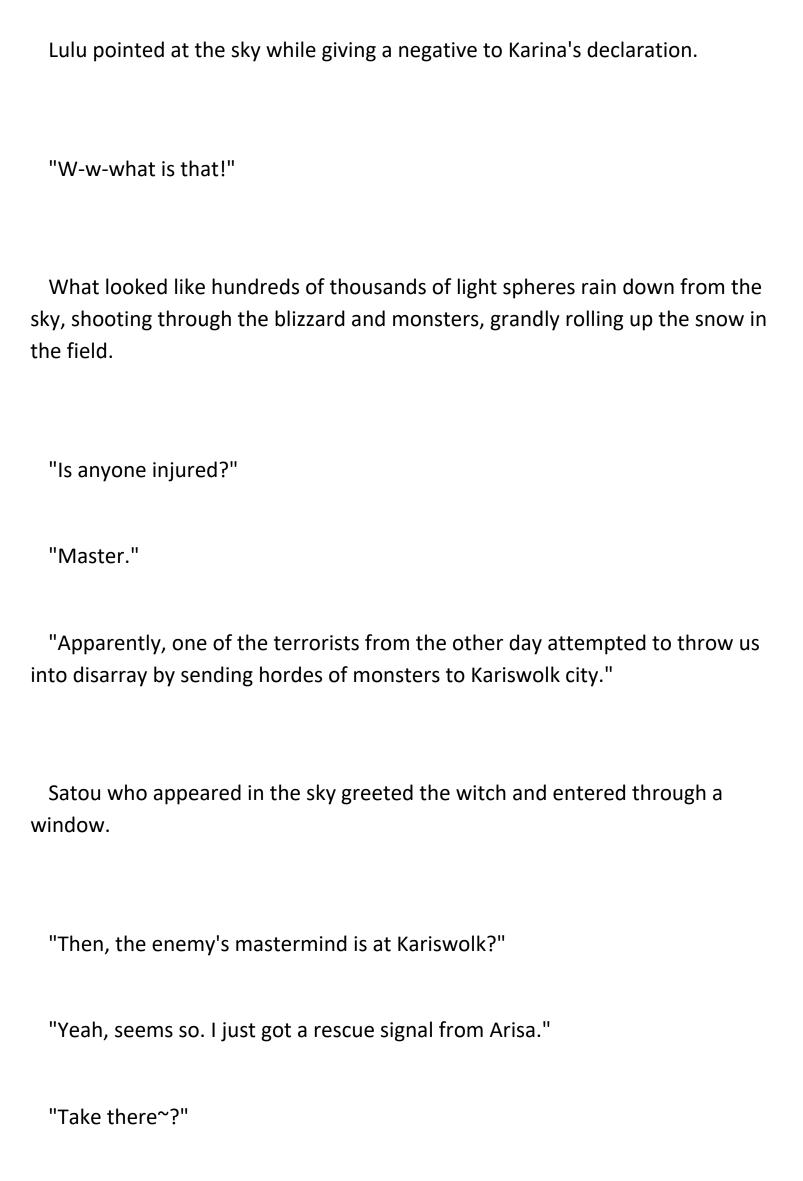


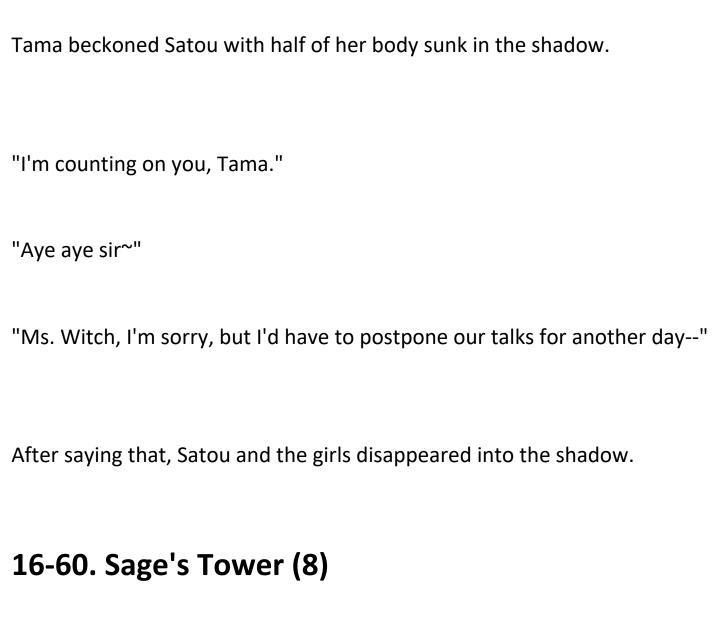
"There's lots of big monsters nodesuyo?"
Tama and Pochi who saw monsters peeking between trees asked her out of concern.
"Don't worry, just watch ssu. A witch that's close to the Source she rules over is invincible ssu."
The witch runs up to the rooftop.
"I've got lots of mana in winter, just right ssu! ■■ Snowfall, ■■ Tornado, ■■ Thunderbolt, are efficient when used consecutively ssuyone~"
"Oh, gureato~?"
"Amazingly awesome nodesu!"
The Witch who can make use of the abundant Source mana butchers the monsters one after another.
Small, and mid-sized monsters that accompanied the big ones stopped moving after getting hit by the snow and lightning, but four big-sized monsters that were just wounded kept pushing their way through the snow toward the





Liza who kept her calm in contrast to the witch jerked her spear, and then a red light sphere whirled through the blizzard, and blew away the big monster's head.
Liza continued her explanations afterward, but the witch whose mouth was wide open in surprise couldn't hear a thing.
"I'm supposed to be the great witch-sama who rules over a Source though"
The movements of monsters in the witch's territory was reflected in her head as she grumbled.
"Ge ge ge, all of the monsters are coming straight here ssu."
To be more accurate, all of the monsters besides the tamed monsters leading the hordes, however, a god not the witch has no way of knowing that.
"I'll do even better this time!"
"That won't be happening, it seems."





Satou here. I loved the feasibility test before an experiment and the experiment itself, but I could never get myself to enjoy writing down the result into a report. Maybe it's like a programmer who loves to code but hates to write down documentation.





Arisa and Hikaru.

Arisa got away along with Hikaru via Short-range Warp (Short Jump) and then she burned down everything around the small man with advanced level fire magic.

The aroma of burning chocolate and marshmallow are pervading here riding the violent explosion wind.

Hikaru drives down a telephone pole sized [Divine Lance] at a burning red sweet house.

The Divine Lance gouged the ground with a roaring sound and scattered fragments of sweets around, but it seemed to have missed the small man, I could see him running up the slanted Divine Lance at a tremendous speed.

AR information is displayed next to the small man.

In the middle of running up the Divine Lance, the small man squatted down and twisted its body even though there was nothing there, he must have evaded an invisible attack Arisa chantlessly cast with space magic.

The small man brushed off all 15 of the [<<Multiple Javelin>>] Hikaru shot out, and then he kicked the air and jumped toward Arisa.

When he brushed off Hikaru's attack earlier, I could see his greenish skin color.

--He's got innumerable titles.

Arisa used Short-range Warp (Short Jump) and took Hikaru along with her, gaining some distance away from the man.

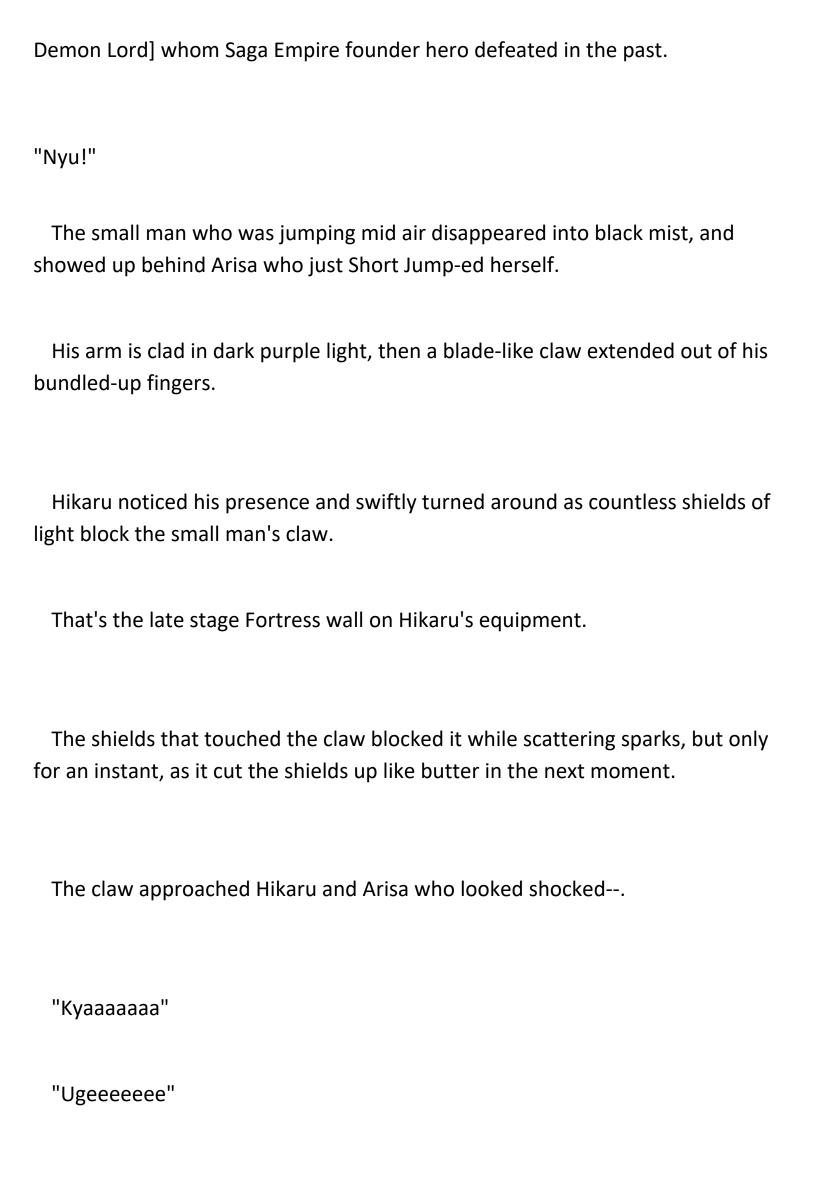
That overcoat seems to have been enchanted with high level Recognition Inhibition functions, but it cannot conceal everything before the AR readings.

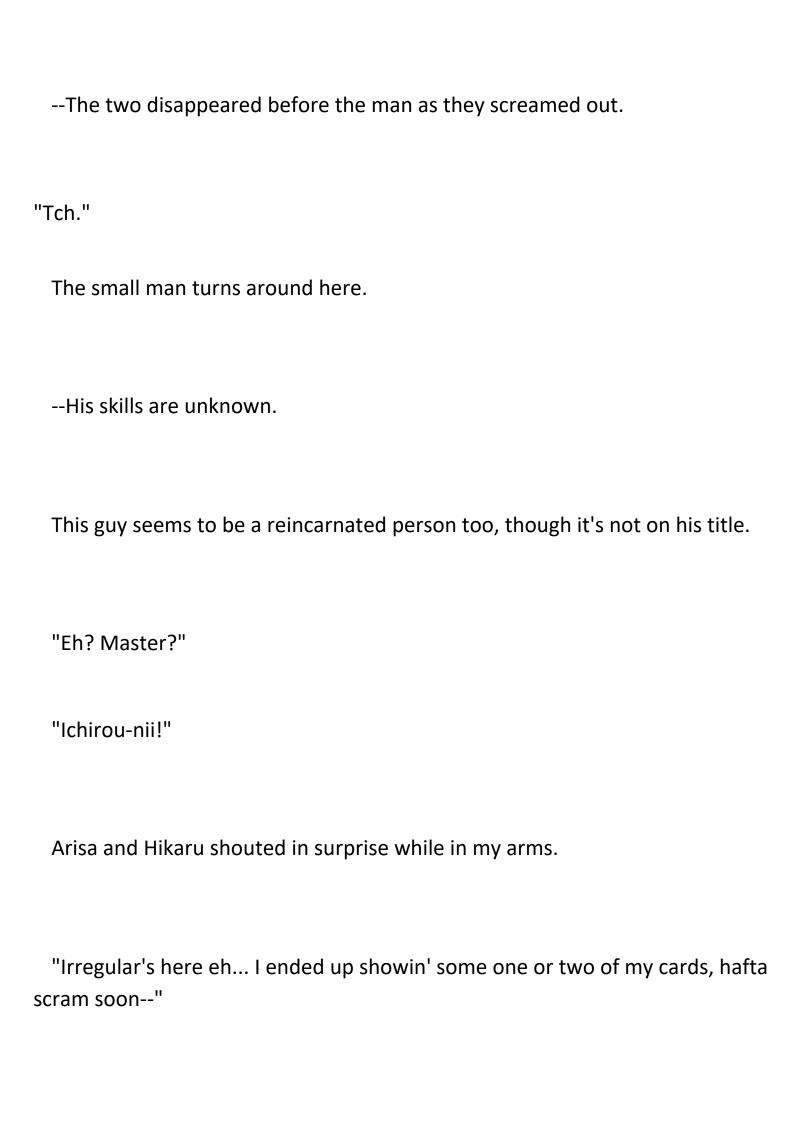
--[Demon Lord].

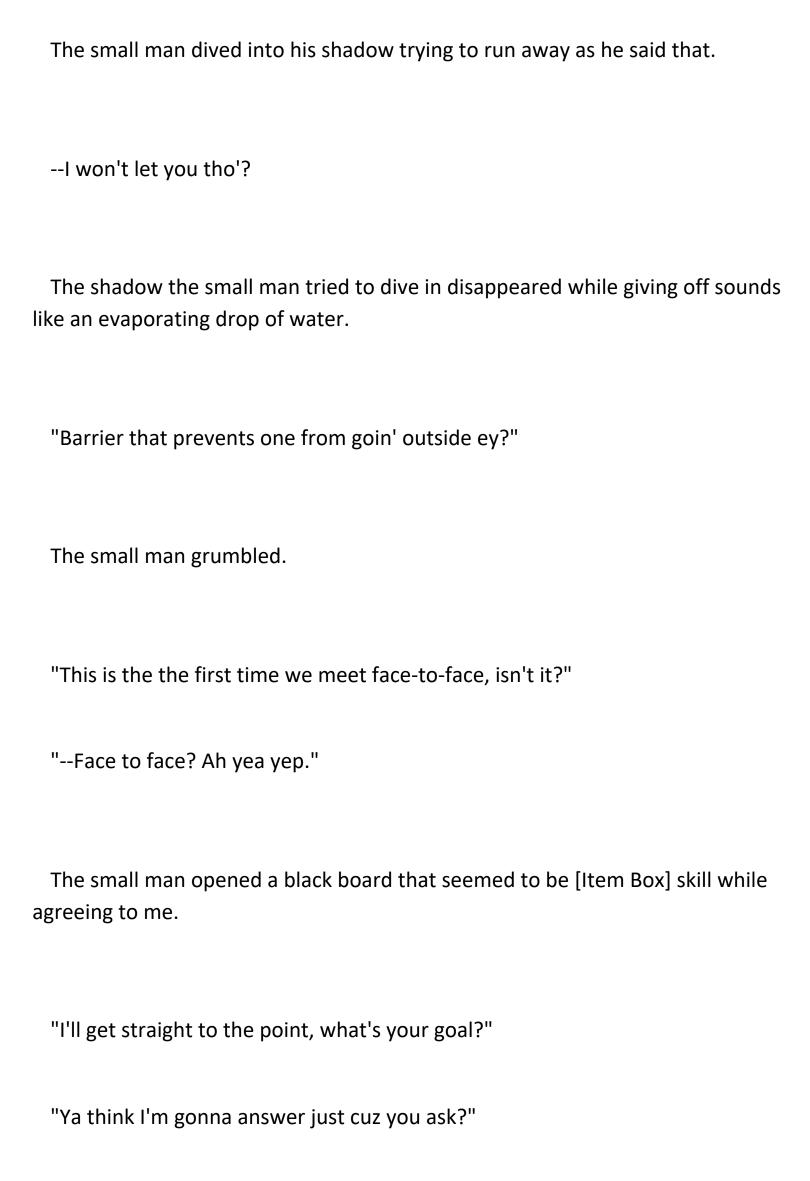
That one caught my eyes among the countless titles the man had.

Amongst others, there are [Demon Lord], [Goblin Demon Lord], [Little Oni King], [Onikin King], [Skanda], [Coward], [Liar King], [Apostle of Thief God].

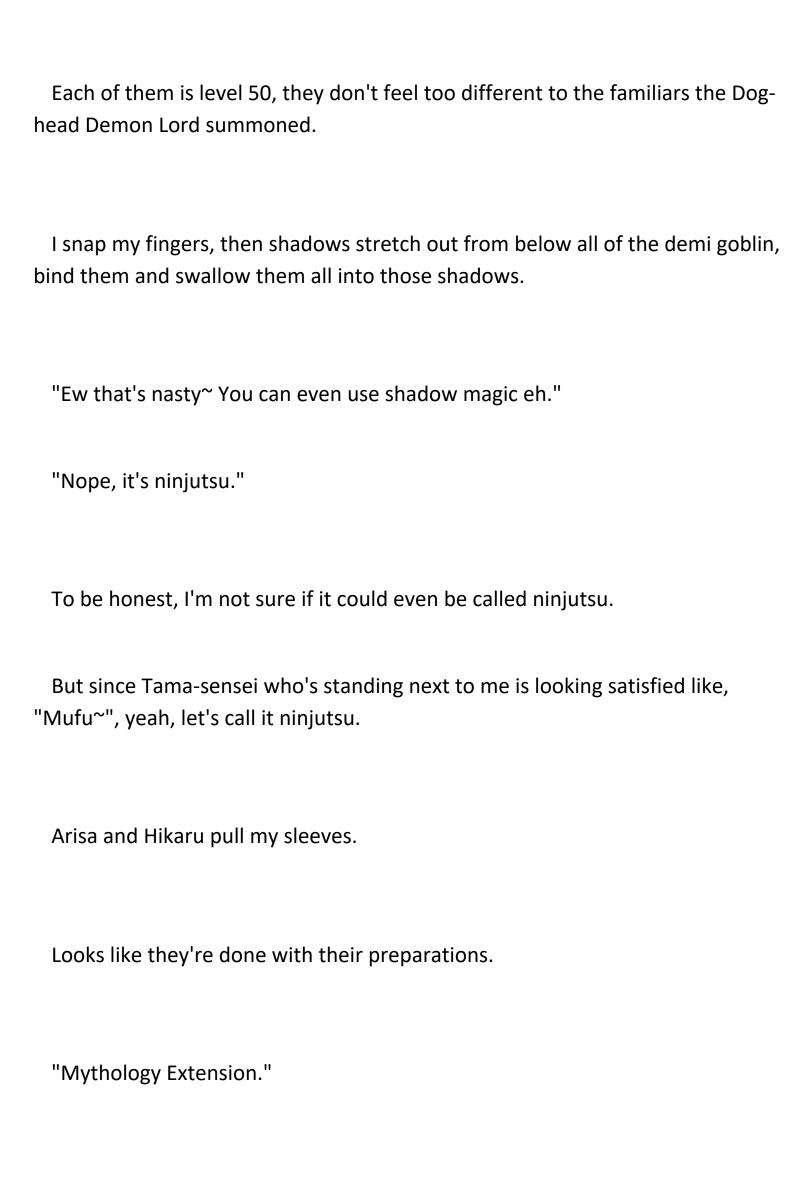
His level is a bit low, but judging from his titles, he must be the [Goblin











"Mythology Down"
Hikaru and Arisa both cast forbidden magic together.
To assist them, I bind the demon lord mid air using Tama's shadow ninjutsu.
The shadow was negated in an instant, but countless rainbow colored light bands produced from Hikaru's forbidden magic [Mythology Extension] wrap the demon lord, binding and eroding his body.
"W0000000000000"
The screaming demon lord was erased along with the sub-space by Arisa's [Mythology Down].
"Even though Warship Wand wasn't available, using anti-god magic might've been too much."

The bracelet that was used in place of Warship Wand broke into pieces due to the load from the magic.
Looks like personal equipment really is unusable for anti-god type forbidden magic's usage.
Might be a good idea to equip everyone with the mass-produced Warship Wand asap.
"Ahaha, I mean our opponent was an 『Avatar』 anyway, wasn't it an ideal target for test firing?"
Pseudo Body (Avatar)?
It's the [Create Avatar] ability that the [Greater Demon Green] used to create a scapegoat when I fought it in the royal capital back then.
"That was an Avatar?"
I asked Hikaru while recalling the green colored skin the demon lord had.
Tama isn't here since I tasked her to survey the surrounding area after the sub-space disappeared.

"Un, he said that he was the one who taught the ability to the [Greater Demon Green]."

"Shouldn't we meet up with the other girls first? I think Liza-san and Nana would be fine, but it could get a wee bit bad for other girls."

"Ah, you're right."

I pull Tama here with Unit Arrangement and go back to Kariswolk City where everyone is.

I tried searching [Pseudo Body (Avatar)] in all existing Maps, but I found no hit.

I hadn't noticed since I wouldn't know whether he was an Avatar or not without glancing at the [Race] data. I mean it had [Goblin Demon Lord] title, so I ignored unimportant info like Race and Age.

If only I knew that it was an Avatar at the start, I would have traced the line back to its original body before destroying the Avatar, too bad.

Well, since I got to find out about our opponent's identity and goal, and also destroyed the dangerous-looking pocket watch along with the Avatar, it's all good.

I couldn't read through all the information since he hid himself among the Demi Goblin crowds midway through, but that pocket watch was a sacred treasure called [Thief God---] something.

I've also found out that [Goblin Demon Lord] is capable of breaking through late stage Fortress, seems like a good idea to develop a personal-type Castle which is even sturdier than Fortress, and emergency escape equipment that make Short Jump usable.

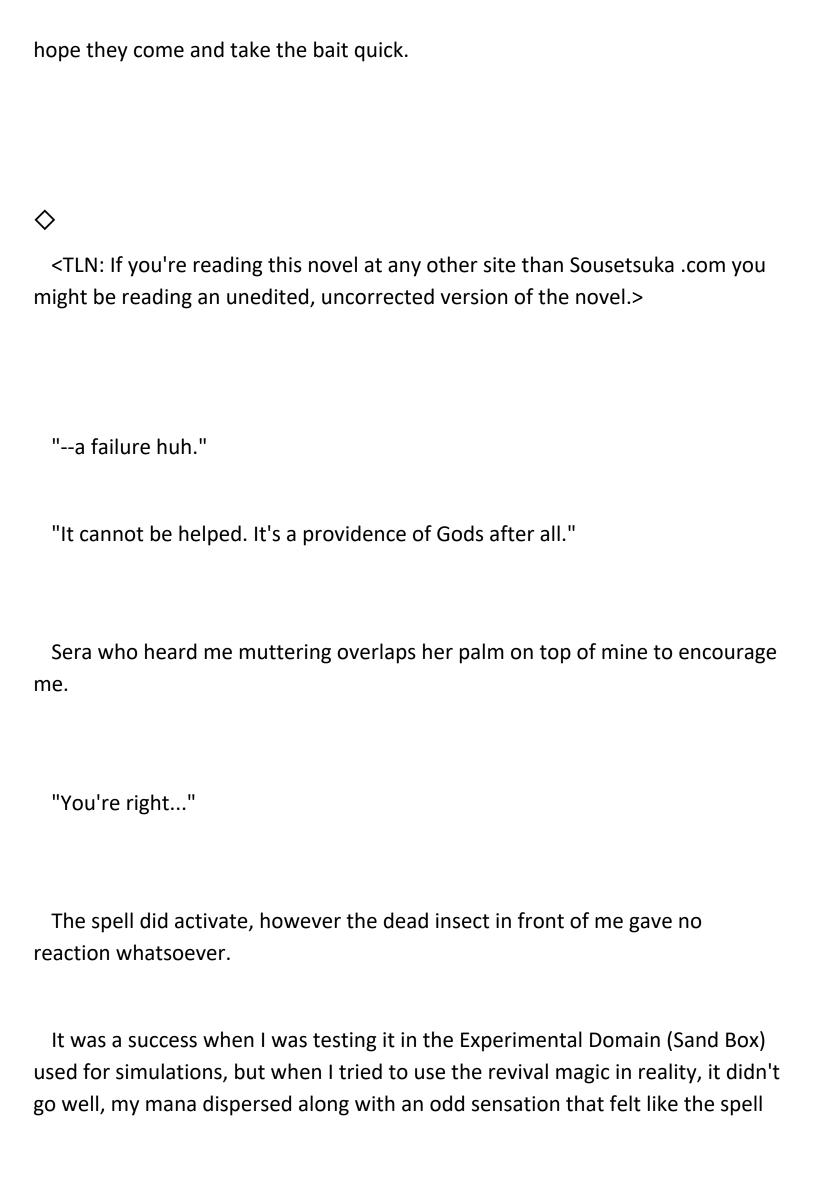
Feels like I could make something better if I analyzed the [Light Lid of Heavenly Protection] sacred treasure that was protecting cities in the floating island of Lalakie I encountered during the Divine Punishment.

Ah, the [Damnation Cannon] I found in the investigation of the floating island of Lalakie should prove useful to update Lulu's accelerated cannon too.

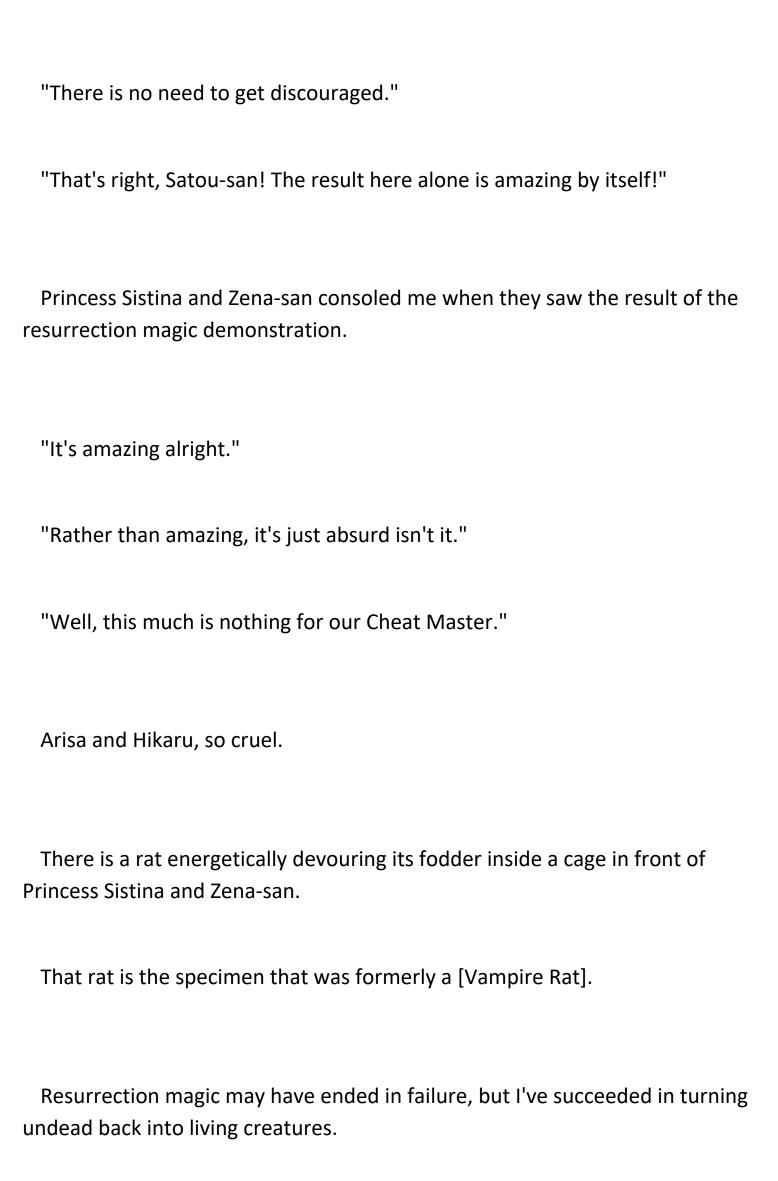
While I was thinking that, we met up with the other girls, shared information about [Goblin Demon Lord], and [Avatar] with whom it may concern and resumed the trial.

Of course, since the demon lord might come attacking again with a new [Avatar], I've put up space-detection barriers on Kariswolk city and other cities where my acquaintances are.

Maintaining these barriers in dozens of location is pretty tough as expected,







Of course, it can't be used to turn back every kind of undead.

Lesser and unbranded vampires, like [Vampire Rats] can be turned back into living creature--normal rat, without any problem. I can't say for sure whether it's possible for greater vampires because I've got no test subject for it.

However, on the other hand, doing it on intangible undead like ghost and such made them disappear like they were purified, while skeleton and zombies turned into ash.

For ghouls and stuff, most specimens died the moment they were turned back into living creatures.

In just one case, a ghoul survived in the form of something beast-like, but then it rapidly grew old in just one night and died.

"But really, how'd you even get to this point in just two days? Is it Cheat for real?"

"Of course not. I know someone who's an expert in ghosts and those with ethereal body, so I've got them to show me various documents."

Arisa said it like it was easy, but developing magic to turn undead back into the living was quite tough.

When I asked Leiane who's of an unusual [Half Ghost] race about it just because, I ended up having to listen about her life when she was living in the floating island Lalakie in the age of myth.

Lalakie's populace was originally humans, but they transformed into [Half Ghost] through the work of an institution called [Mausoleum of Noble Ascension], and eventually they would discard their physical and soul body and sublimed into a mental life form called [Lalakie Happy Folk].

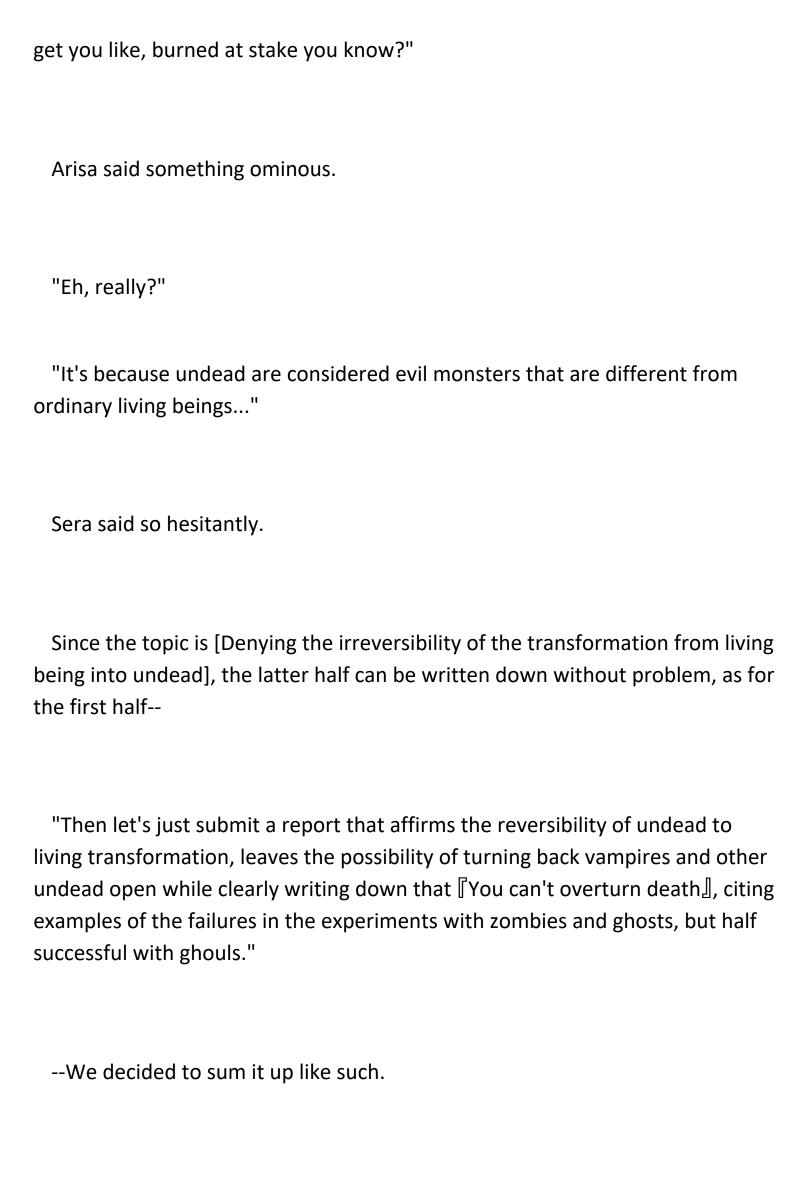
When I asked her if she had documents pertaining it, she introduced me to the core control system in the main control room of the floating island Lalalkie, a mother computer-like AI, I was able to learn about occult beings like soul body, ethereal body and even anima children from it.

Thanks to such knowledge, I succeeded in creating a composite spell of soul and light magic, [Undead to Life].

As the spell ended up having almost twice the capacity of an average forbidden spell, I think I'm the only person in the world that can do it on a personal level.

Eventually, I'm thinking of disassembling it into a ritual magic that can be cast by multiple casters, but it's too troublesome, so I plan to out-source the job to someone outside.

"So, Master. Are you going to announce this result? Religion-wise, it's gonna



Before I started to work on the report, I transform the priests who were kept in a sub-space, and the people I left with progenitor Ban, back into humans.

Of course, I wasn't in Satou form, but as a [Mysterious Priest Koubou].

To prevent some of the priests from killing themselves, I told them that it was a miracle done through an item made of orichalcum posed as a sacred treasure.

Killing themselves after turning back to their original state through a miracle of god would mean betraying their gods after all.

I felt a bit guilty when I saw them extolling the glory of gods in tears, but I convinced myself that this was a form of help too as I returned them back to their country each.

Now that I'm done helping people and all, guess it's time to write the report that will be submitted to [Sage's Tower].

Previous Chapter

16-61. Sage's Tower (9)

Satou here. I needed to write a lot of papers in my university days, but the chance never presented itself after I became a member of society, unless it was an event outside the company. Though well, I do need to write materials for presentations quite often....



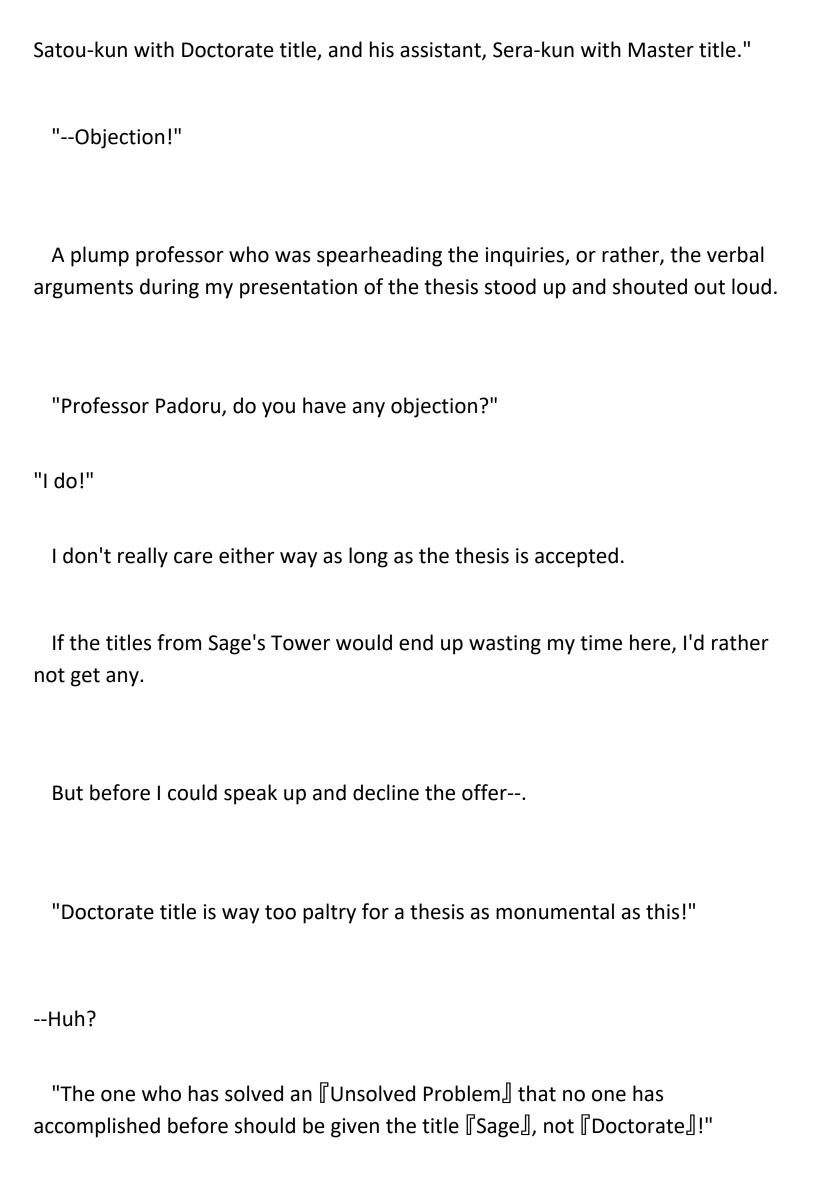
"--Is there any more questions for Satou-kun? No? Well then, let us take a vote. Anyone who has objections regarding the thesis presented by Saotu-kun about [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead], please raise your hand."

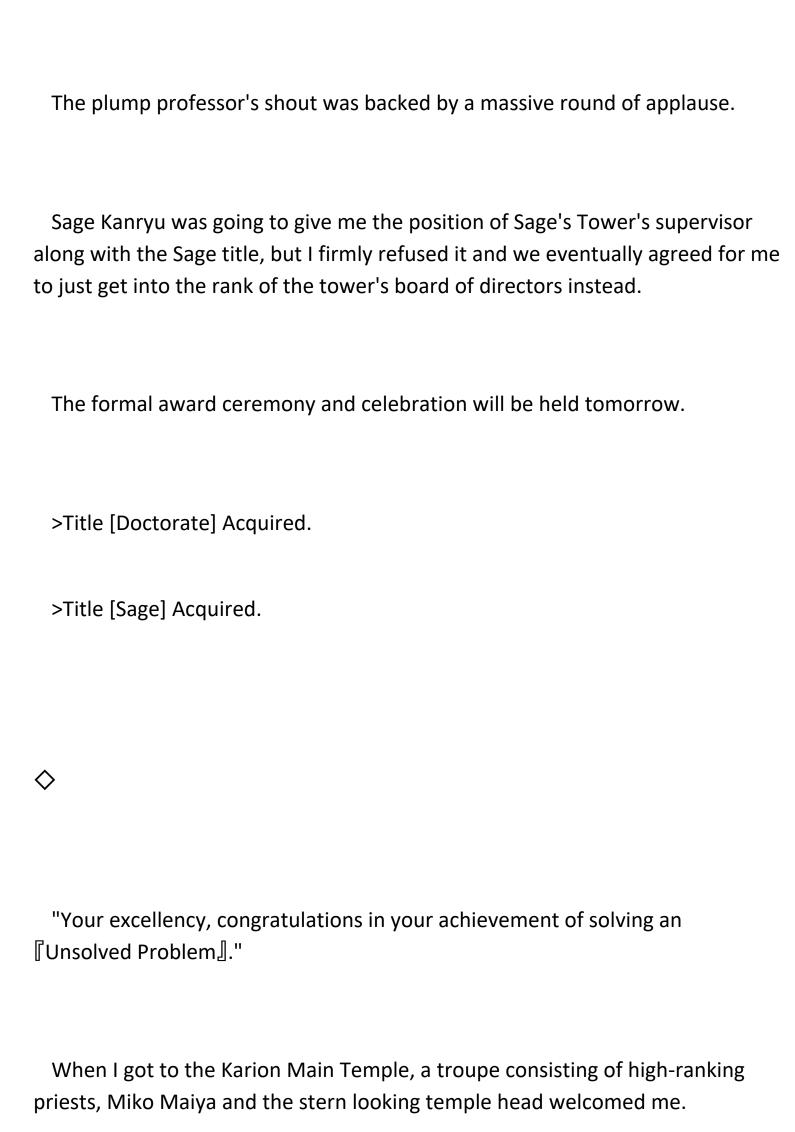
When I submitted the finished paper to Sage's Tower, Sage Kanryu scanned over it before he gave the order for an emergency summoning of the tower's board of directors, and then I ended up having to present the paper before them.

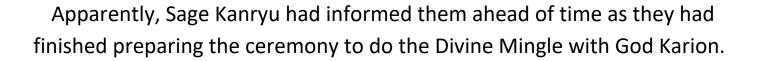
Since a sage from time immemorial had asked God Karion about resurrection magic and got a negative as his reply, they didn't fuss over the part about it in my paper.

In addition, the spell I used to verify the validity of my thesis, [<<Undead to Life>>] got designated as a forbidden spell, but since I had gone the trouble of developing the spell and all, I had it recorded in the Sage's Tower [Sealed Depository] with the condition of it having [Creator Unknown] description.

[&]quot;It appears there is no objection. Then we shall accept the thesis, and award







☐--O God. Prudent God we revere.
☐

A bright light fell down from the heavens after Miko Maiya called.

It's a comforting vermilion colored light. Is it just me or does it feel brighter than the light before.

Miko Maiya's ecstatic expression slackened.

Looks like she's entered the trance state.

[...Good boy.]

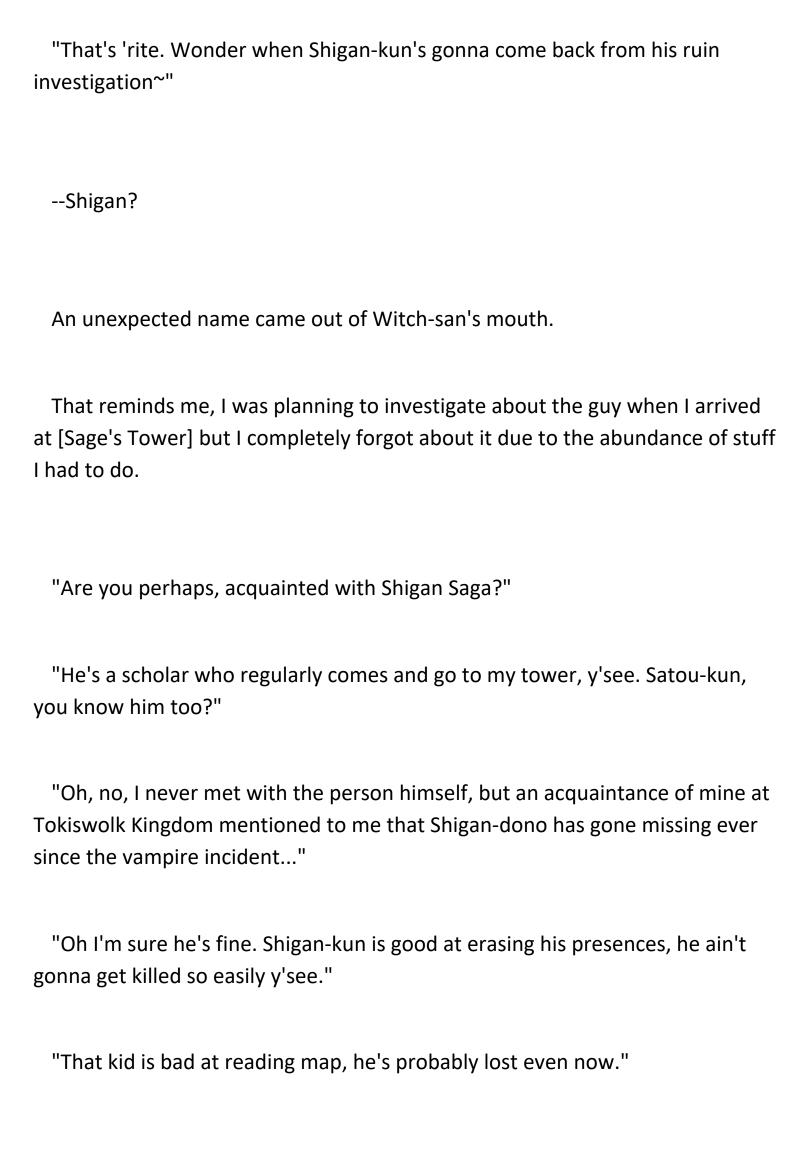
God Karion uttered only one word, yet at the same time, the thoughts, [Blessing], [Praise], and [Satisfaction] flowed unto me.

[For you.]

A deep vermilion glitter is born in the center the vermilion light, and then it crystallizes into the shape of a book. According to AR readings, it's called [Book of Wisdom, Karisfel], a type of [Divine Gift Treasure]. An unfamiliar gem called [Wisdom Spring Stone] is embedded in the book's spine. Later on, I learned that this book is able to look up all kinds of spell chant of basic magic, which is very helpful. The majority of magic I developed myself isn't recorded in it though, so it's not like it has everything. Nevertheless, there's a still lot of magic I don't know written in it, so I plan to use the book to register them into my Magic List when I have time. >Title [Saint of Karion] Acquired. >Title [Apostle of Karion] Acquired. >Title [Librarian] Acquired.







Looks like the two witches-san don't want to believe the passing of Shigan Saga.

It seems they get it already deep down, I'll just dispatch a letter about the passing through Tokiswolk Kingdom later.

"So I'm wondering what's Shigan-shi's research subject about?"

"Shigan-kun is researching about the seal of Demon God, you see."

--Geh, seriously?

"Did he, you know, find out a way to undo the seal?"

"There ain't no way to undo a seal placed by Gods, y'know."

Unlike Witch-san, Shigan-shi was not a demon god adherent, he was researching the topic with the goal, "With a barrier that can even seal the Demon God, sealing demon lords should be easy with it", in mind.

"It's said that you can go to Hell where Demon God-sama is sealed through the Hell Gate, but there's no document supporting that claim anywhere to be





back complaining if I get it wrong okay."

"Near poor villages at Kishuo District to the east of Saga Empire, you see. There's this place with traces from an ancient battlefield where a fierce clash with Orc Empire 700 years ago occurred, and a withered dungeon."

Since I found the rough location, I went there myself after the banquet, but there were only ordinary countryside villages over there, I couldn't find members of some suspicious society or hideouts of any sort.

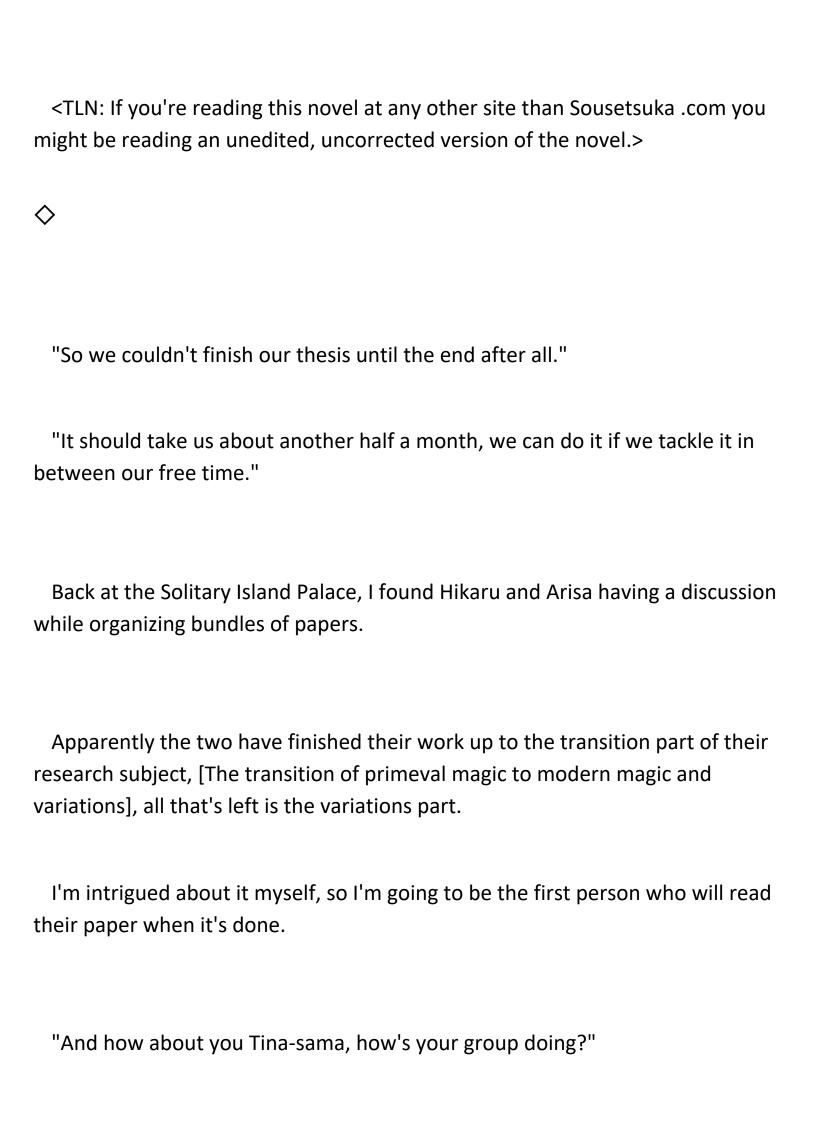
While I was at it, I also visited the ruin at Tokiswolk Kingdom where Shigan-shi went to investigate at.

There were traces of someone investigating the ruin, I also found heaps of preserved food and stuff there.

Unfortunately, the great majority of slates had their inscriptions scrapped off, so I didn't find a new information about the demon god.

I had investigated the leftovers, and I could found no clue other than the fact that they belonged to research groups from various countries including Tokiswolk Kingdom.

Well, that demon lord from the other day probably instigated this.



"Oh, currently we're exploring the possibility of chant annulment through Chant Shortening skill as the first step toward Chantless magic."

Princess Sistina replied to Arisa.

The members who aren't too familiar with magic look confused as the difference is a bit hard to comprehend.

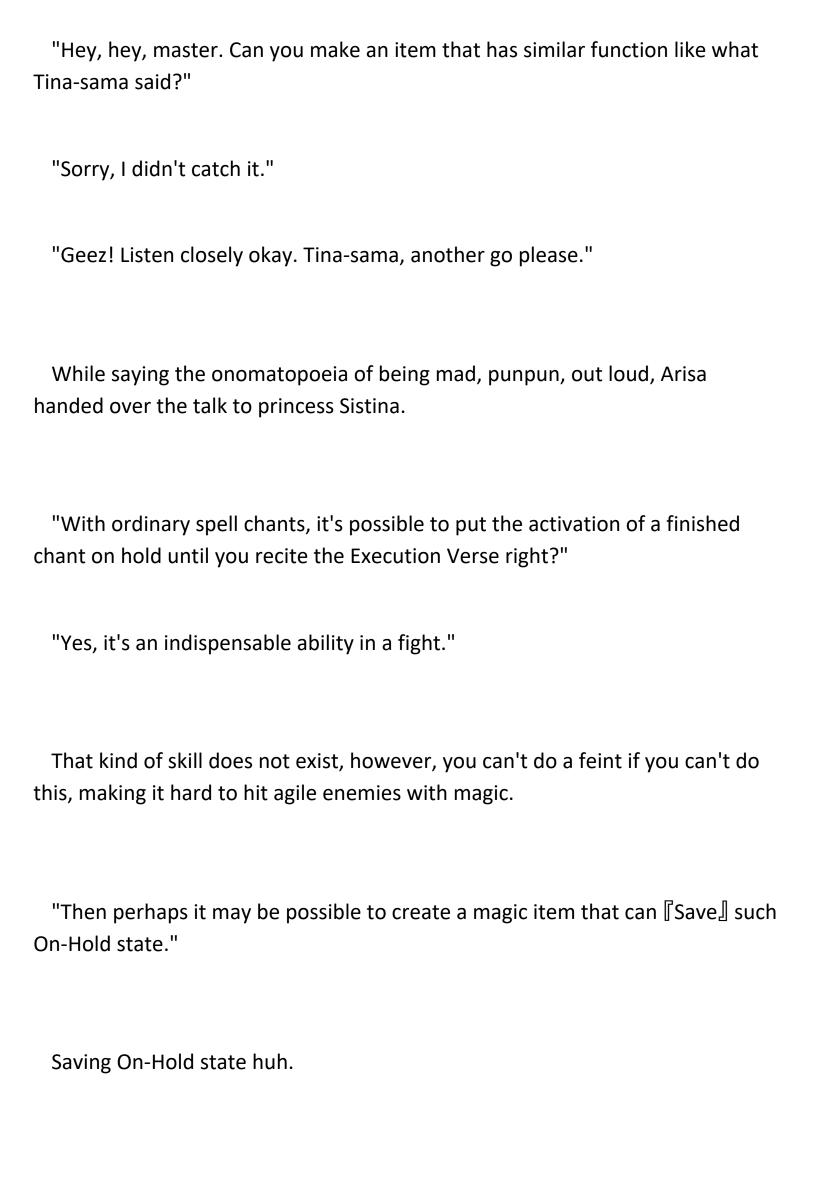
[Chant Shortening] skill shorten a spell by overwriting the variables in the spell with preset fixed values from the skill.

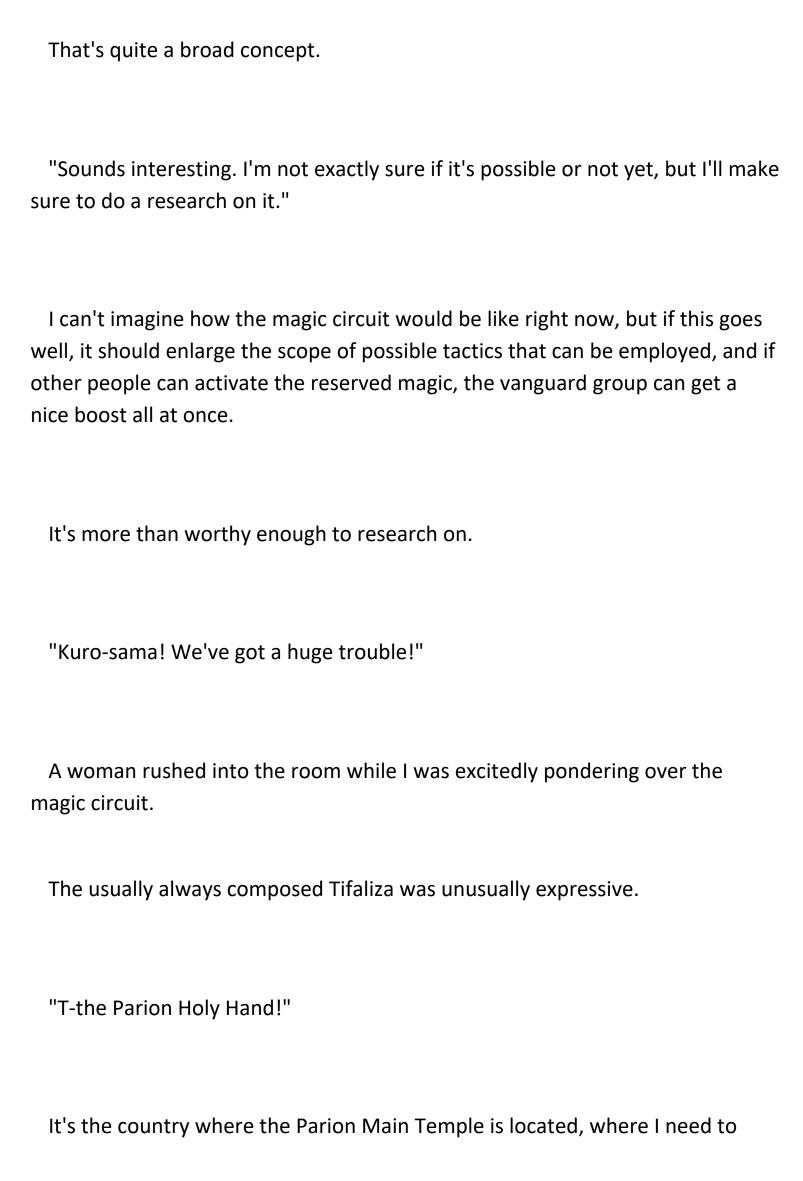
On the other hand, [Chant Annulment] omits the spell chant itself and enables magic activation just by reciting the last part that is [Execution Verse].

And the [Chantless Magic] that I, Arisa and Hikaru regularly use omits both the spell part and the [Execution Verse] of magic.

Even excepting my chantless magic that comes from my Unique Skill [Menu], Arisa and Hikaru's version is a hidden function of the [Self Status] skill they got from gods when they were reincarnating and getting transported here, thus I think even ordinary people have a chance to obtain it.

After all, even though [Self Status] is a Divine Gift, it's not a Unique Skill that comes from a [God's Fragment].





take on the last trial.

I don't have much good memories about the country, but since I did rule the City Core there once albeit temporarily, can't say I'm unrelated to it.

I've liberated myself from that City Core after a few experiments since I have no particular need for that City Core.

"The Parion Holy Land has been destroyed!"

Whoa, now that's a surprise.

16-62. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (1)

Satou here. [No nation lasts forever], said someone in a anime with Milky Way for its setting, but when you're living in a relatively peaceful country, [downfall of nation] simply feels like a thing of distant future.



[&]quot;Did a revolution or a coup d'etat break out at last?"

I nonchalantly asked Tifaliza who came here to report the news about Parion Holy Land's destruction.

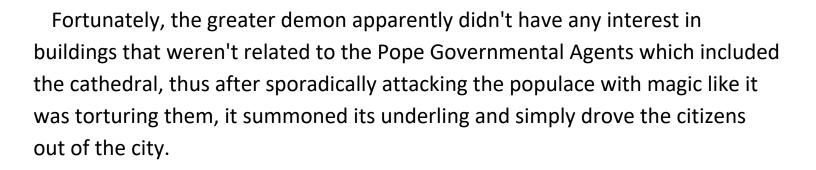
Despite falling into a slightly critical situation during the Divine Punishment, Parion Holy Land received help from Saga Empire heroes to cull out monsters in the surrounding areas, so I don't believe it would be destroyed due to an external factor.

It could happen due to a raid by some beings such as demon lords or greater demons, however, there's usually an omen before those bunch show up, and since Parion Main Temple has multiple [Oracle Miko], they should receive a prophecy from God Parion if they're going to suffer a country-destroying raid.

"I-it's not that! Parion Holy Land suffered devastating damages from a surprise attack launched by a greater demon, all the priests including Pope Zazaris that were present in the Holy City are either deceased or missing."

--Geh. Looks like the country is really on the verge of downfall.

It's weird how there isn't an oracle about it even though it's the home territory of God Parion--or maybe not. After all, the country's key figures were under control of demon lord believers, it won't surprise me if God Parion has given up on them.



"Are other cities besides the Holy City safe?"

"We're having difficulties acquiring information, we don't have info other than from the operatives that were in the Holy City."

Well considering, the transmission speed of information network, that's only to be expected.

According to Tifaliza, the accident itself happened a few days ago.

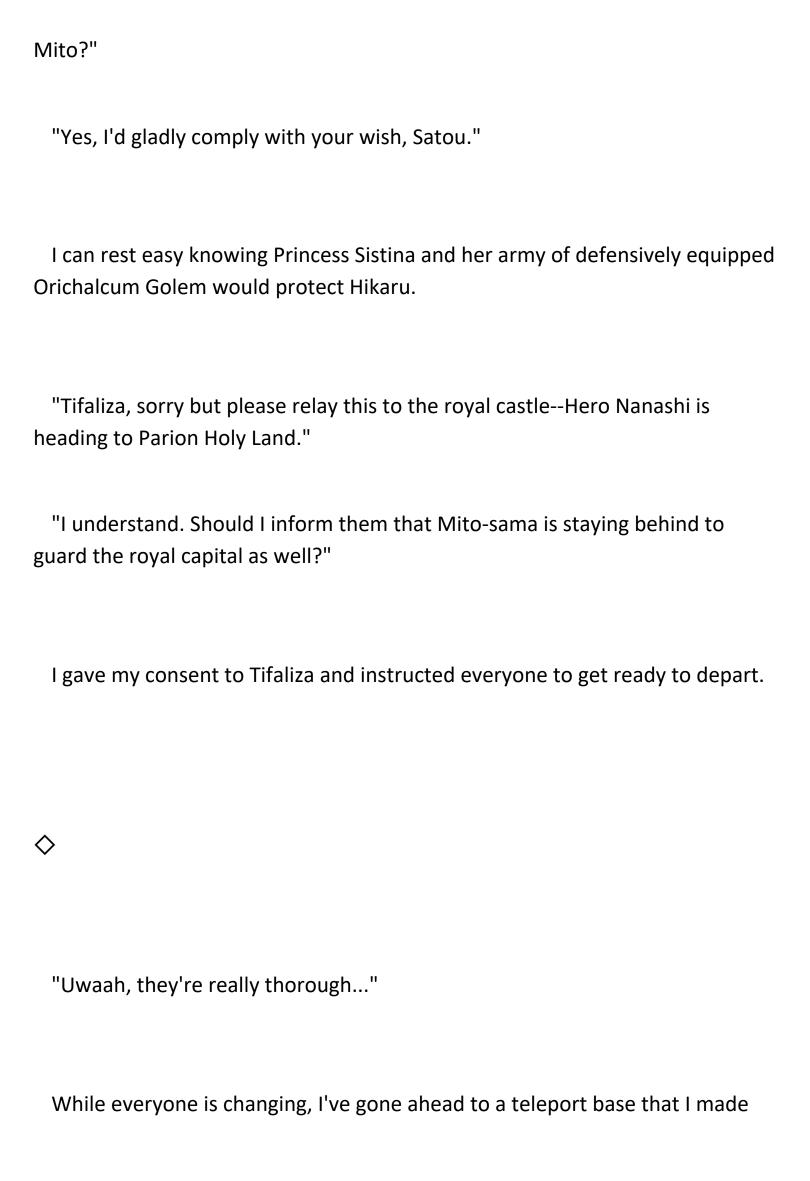
"We've got to help them quick!"

"Food sharing~?"

"Leave it to Pochi to take care of queue nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi struck the shupin pose next to Arisa as she made a declaration while raising her fist up high.





while I was updating map info at Parion Holy Land with Unit Arrangement, here to scout ahead of time.

The Pope's Administrative Sanctuary in the central city and the great majority of temples in various places have been destroyed.

According to the data I retrieved from Map, half of the priests have lost their lives.

Since this country's politics come as a set with religion, the administrative functions have been practically paralyzed now.

Just like the info I got beforehand, the citizens have been driven out of the cities, there isn't anyone that needs saving inside all the cities.

Several lesser demons and their tamed monsters were chasing the banished citizens around like they were playing with them, thus I created artificial spirits [Gryphon Riders] to rescue those people.

According to Map info, there is no greater demon nor demon lord inside Parion Holy Land's map.

In addition, a large airship and two accompanying medium-sized airships from Saga Empire with heroes on board have just arrived at the outer edge of Parion Holy Land, letting them aid the populace would make things easier.

"Now then, next is--"

I use space magic [Clairvoyance] to see the sky above the Holy City where a lot of red dots are concentrated.

Thick dark clouds are hanging above the Holy City's sky, so I lower my view down.

--Hm?

After the view came out of the cloud, I could see black gleaming airship-like things with organic-looking silhouettes floating above the Holy City.

According to Map info, they're apparently called Demon Ships of around level 50, they're a type of mid class demon.

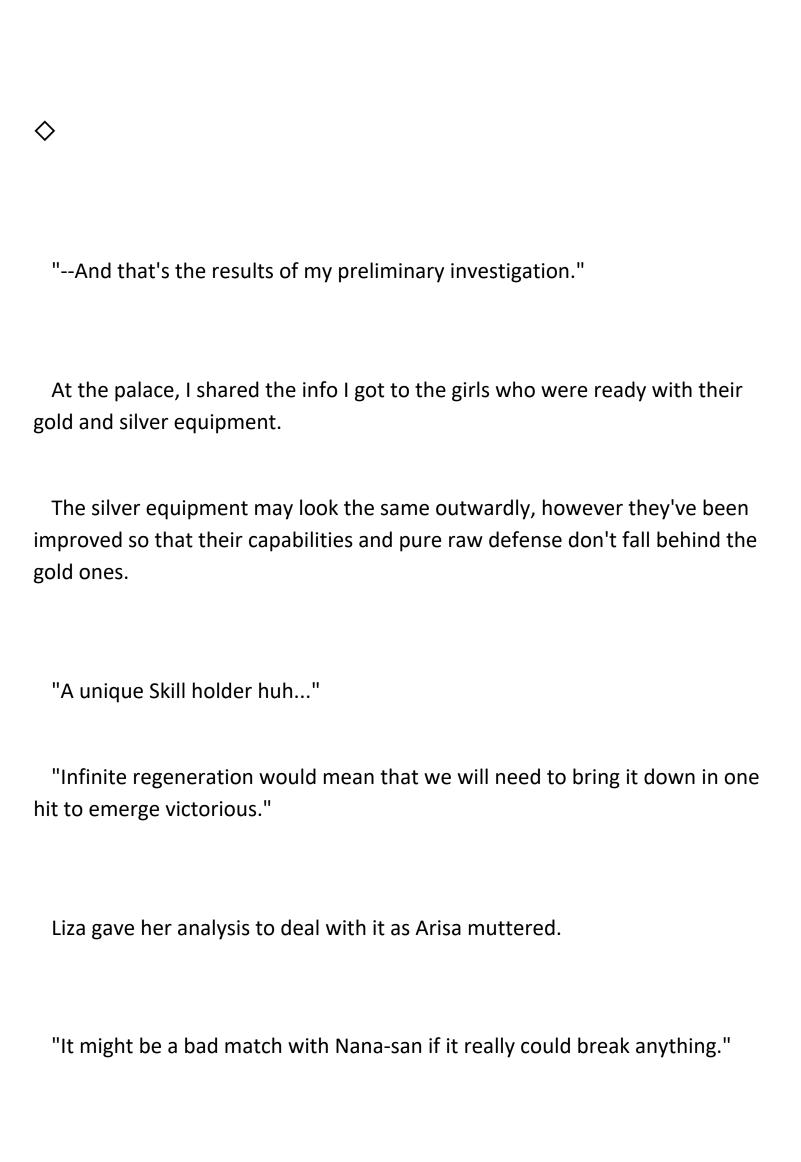
Besides several of such Demon Ships, there are also monsters that look like a combination of a jellyfish and a balloon, called Evil Balloon floating about in the air. These ones are around level 20.

Lesser demons are loitering about above ground in the Holy City, creating more Undead and Construct-type monsters from dead bodies and debris.

Dozens of incorporeal undead monsters like Ghosts and Wraiths of around

level 20-40 have gathered in the demolished site of the cathedral.
I found a Immortal Magic King (Lich) whose level was unusually low at 25 in the center of them.
Ordinarily, most Liches are level 40, so I checked its detailed info out of curiosity.
For some reason, the Lich has many close quarter combat skills.
It's intriguing alright, but there's a more important point.
This Lich possesses Unique Skills.
Three of them, which are [Unparalleled Pulverization (Nothing that cannot be pulverized)], [Infinite Regeneration (Rebirth)], [Infinite Propagation (Division)].
"Weird"
Is it just me or are these Unique Skills are a mix of both heroes' and reincarnated people's.
Well, I drew this conclusion from experience though, I won't be surprised if

the naming trends proved to be wrong. Of course, I also checked on its titles, but this Lich is neither a [Hero] nor a [Demon Lord]. Its name doesn't sound Japanese either, it's [Anmeikusibi], doesn't ring a bell. "--Homonculus?" After looking closer at the NB info, I found out that this Lich was originally a Homonculus before turning into a Lich. Since Homonculi should have their creator name in its info, I tried to look up further and found a fake-sounding name attached, [Nemo]. I've got an idea whose fake name it belongs to, but for now I'll write a memo about it on the Memo Pad of Alternate column. [Master, we're ready to sortie out.] Arisa had called me through the Familiar Line, thus I put a stop on the mystery Lich's investigation, and went back to the Solitary Island Palace.





"Yeah, so long as you leave the Lich alone, all's good."

"What about the Lich?"

"I'll try to get in contact with it and see if we can establish a conversation."

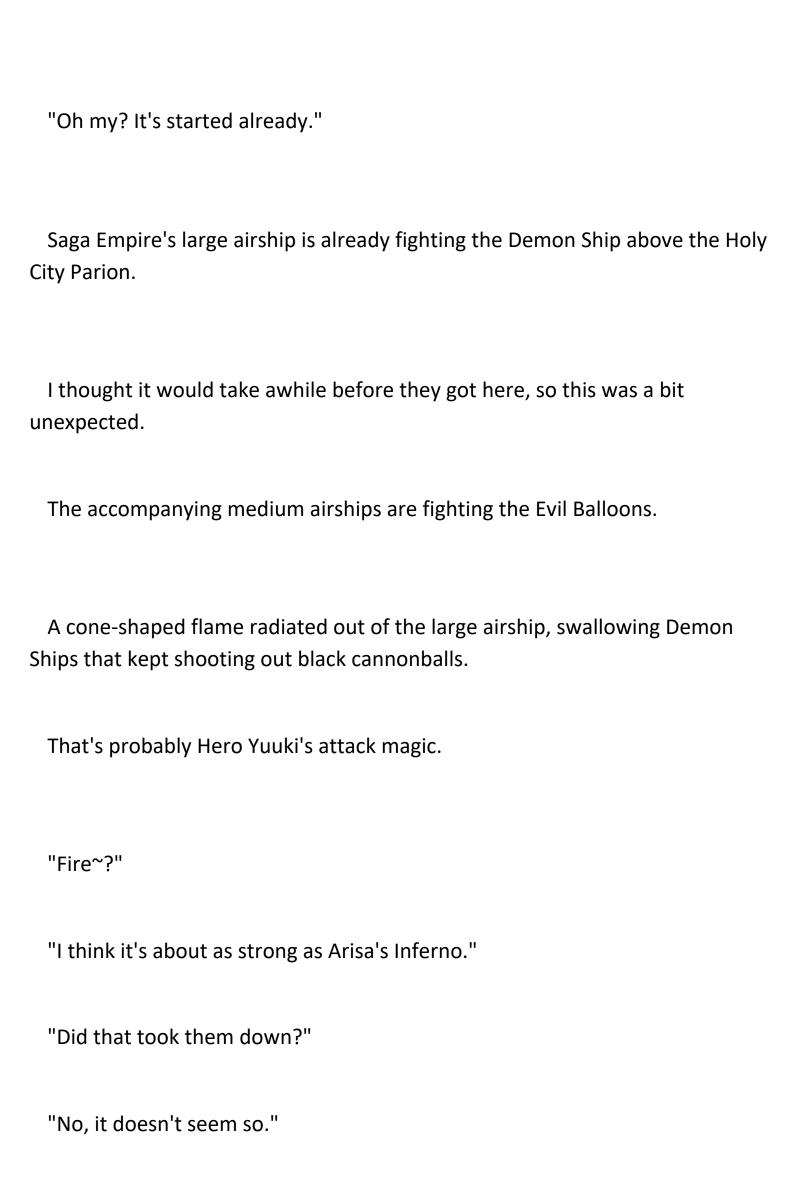
Just like the [True Ancestor of Vampires] Ban, and [King of Corpse] Corpse and the others in the labyrintht's lower layer, it might turn out to be a friendly undead that can be reasoned with.

"If it's no good, you girls can attack and defeat it."

"Gotcha. I could do something like [Cultivation of Greater Demons] if it went and multiplied en masse with its Infinite Propagation."

After reminding Arisa who said some gamer-like thing, "Everything in moderation, okay", I moved everyone to the Parion Holy Land with Unit Arrangement.





On the other side of the flame's black smoke, Demon Ships jumped out of it while dragging black smoke.

Looks like the Demon Ships' magic barrier successfully blocked Hero Yuuki's attack magic.

"It's pretty strong for a level 50."

Even while Arisa was stating her impression, the large airship where Hero Yuuki was and the five Demon Ships went farther away from the Holy City's sky as they kept fighting.

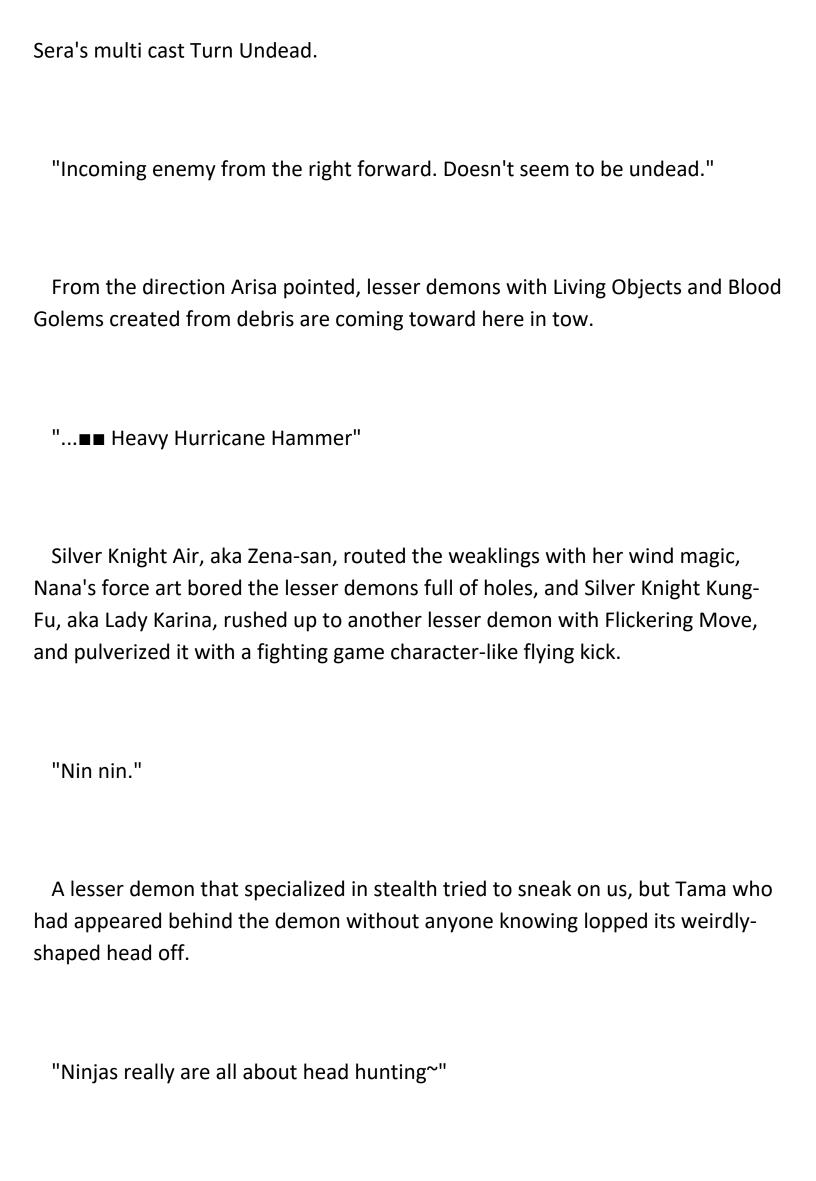
"--Ah."

I saw someone jumping out of the large airship and boarded on one of the Demon Ships.

I checked on it while thinking that there's no one else besides her who would do that, and sure enough it was Hero Meiko who's good with close quarter combat. And after she just got a sound beating by the Guardian Dragon of Dragg Kingdom the other day, as usual she's really a battle junkie who loves to pick a reckless fight.

The hero that could be seen in the hatch where Hero Miko jumped out is

probably the search-type Hero Seigi. Looks like the last one, Hero Fuu didn't get dispatched either this time. <TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.> "Well then, let's begin the clean-up of Holy City." After saying that, I headed toward the cathedral site in the center of the city together with the girls. "■■ Purification (Turn Undead)!" All kinds of undead that were in the Holy City came to assault us, but none could even get close as the Silver Knight Holy, aka Sera, purified them into dust with her holy magic. The few rare ones that managed to escape her purification, like Wraith Knights and Wraith Mages, still ended up getting indiscriminately purified by



I don't think Arisa's remark is right, but since I'm concerned about the movement on the Map, I resist the urge to quip her and concentrate on it instead.

Apparently, those related to the temple are heading to the Holy City through air routes.

Looking with [Clairvoyance], it's a group consisting of an elderly miko-san, a bald space magician, and two stern-looking temple knights riding a [Magic Carpet].

The space magician immediately noticed my [Clairvoyance] and used a counter spell.

Although my [Clairvoyance] didn't actually get shut out by his counter spell, I canceled it nevertheless since there was no need to watch them.

"...■■■■ <<Sacred Turn Undead>>"

Looks like she's gotten fed up with it, as Sera uses a wide area purification magic assisted by the silver armor's range expansion function.

Seemingly feeling bored, Arisa brought up a subject, "Y'know, the highest

level spells have 'Sacred' on the name with Holy Magic, but all other magic have 'Divine' on them, is there any meaning to that I wonder?"

It's quite an interesting topic, but we're in the middle of a battlefield right now, so I shut her down, "Later when we get back to the Solitary Island Palace."

"Master, look at the sky!"

Nana pointed at the sky.

A medium sized airship that was fighting an Evil Balloon got entangled in the octopus-like tentacles, and then the next moment, a huge explosion occurred with roaring sounds.

The medium airship still managed to stay in air even while raising black smoke, but the Evil Balloons are fast approaching the slowed down airship one after another.

That ship would have gone down if that many Evil Balloons exploded themselves.

"--Lulu."

"Yes!"

Lulu set up her portable accelerated cannon and shot down the Evil Balloons one after another.

Sniper Lulu's shooting never missed a target, all the enemies in air got shot down in the blink of an eye.

[Master.]

[Thanks for waiting nanodesu.]

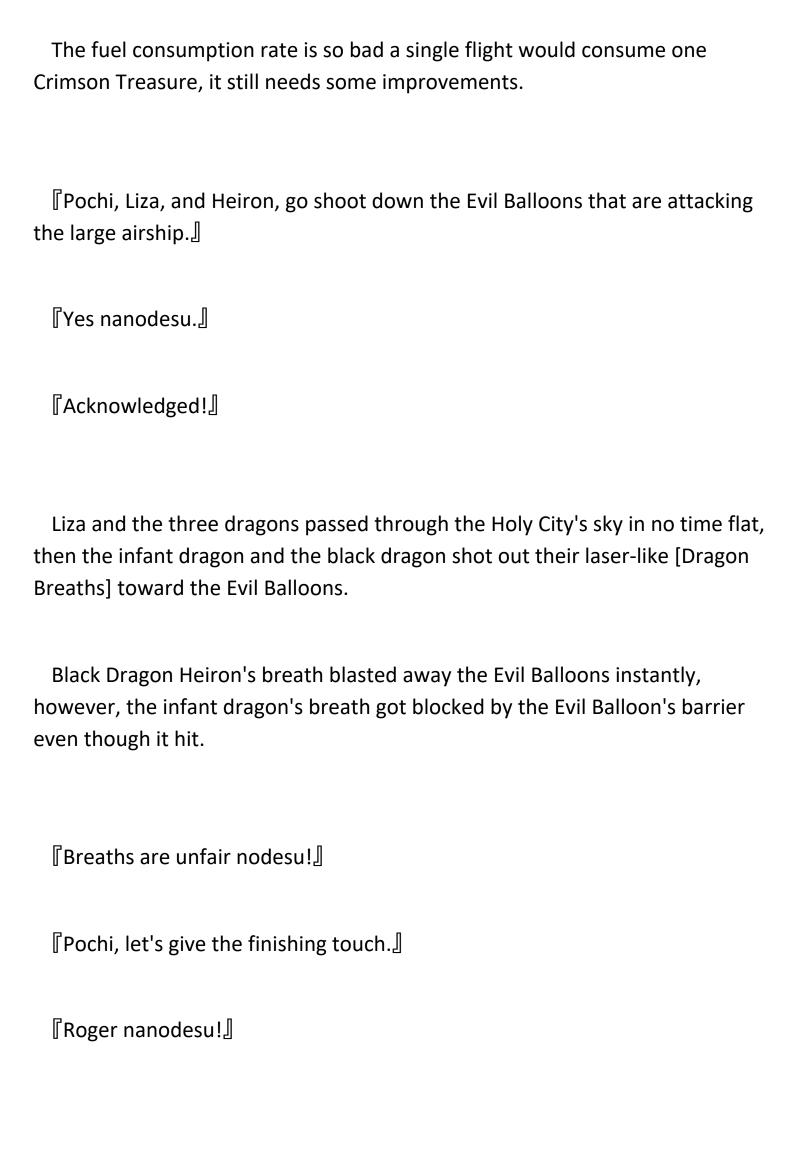
Liza's and Pochi's voices came through the always connected Tactical Talk.

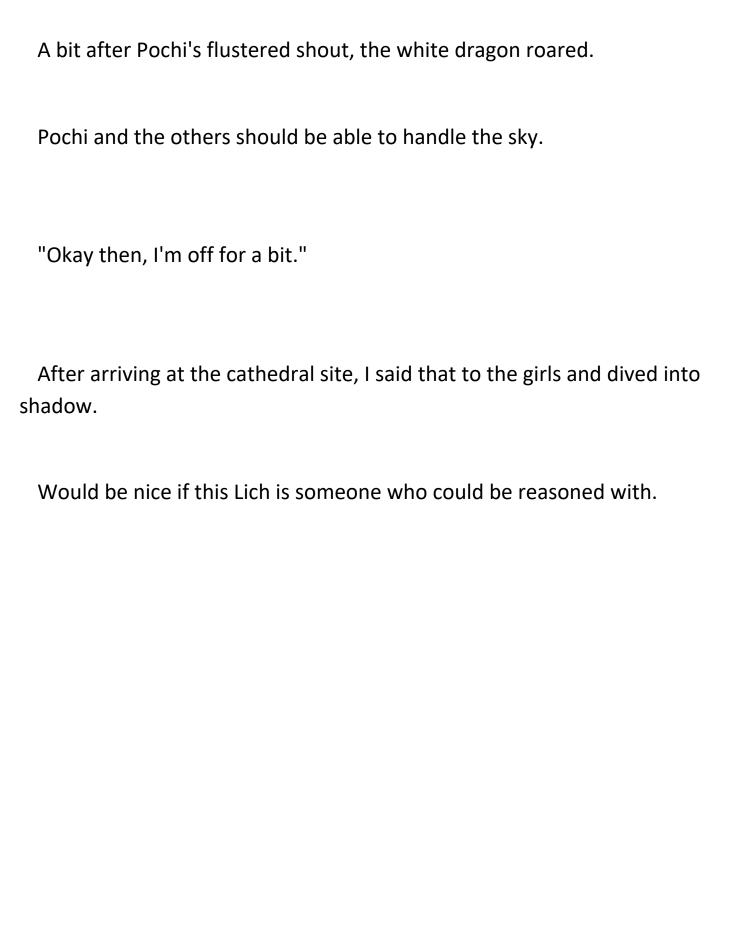
Looking at the direction where the blue dots are approaching fast, I could see dragons of various colors, White, Green, and Black coming here.

Pochi's dragon ride, the white dragon was in the plan, but I never expected the infant green dragon and even the black dragon to come along too.

Green Dragon is one thing, but I'm amazed to see Black Dragon could pass through the gate.

Liza isn't riding on the white dragon, she's flying together with them with her new Powered Exoskeleton.





16-63. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (2)

Satou here. Making a mistake in the way you exterminate pest would invite a large outbreak of pest in rebound, said someone in TV and SNS. What's important is knowing the correct information.



"Is that the entrance to the City Core's room?"

I went through shadows with Tama and arrived at the sanctuary underground, where the [Immortal Magic King (Lich)] was.

Countless Undeads are trying their hardest to get to the City Core, and the Lich in question is apparently among them.

Every time the Lich's fists clad in purple light hit the floor, the blue magic barrier gets broken apart like scattered sparks.

"Anmeikusibi!"

I tried to call out the tongue-twisting name of the Lich, but it gave no reaction.

Got the same result even after I called its creator's name, [Nemo].

The Lich just keeps on striking the door located on the floor without a care in the world.

Looks like this ex-homonculus Lich has little to no ego, it feels like it can only follow the orders given to it like a machine.

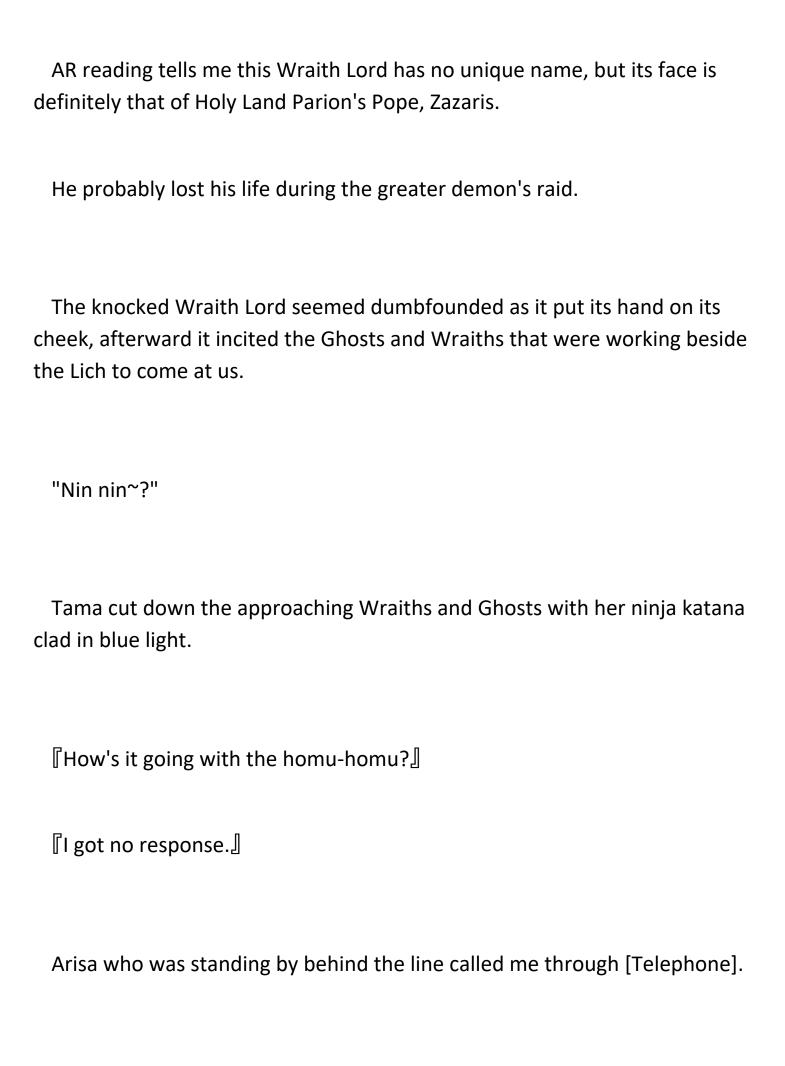
Instead, a Wraith Lord who had been pompously commanding the Undead from behind them noticed and glared at me with its hollowed eyes that glowed dark red lights.

--ZRWEEEAIYTTTZH!

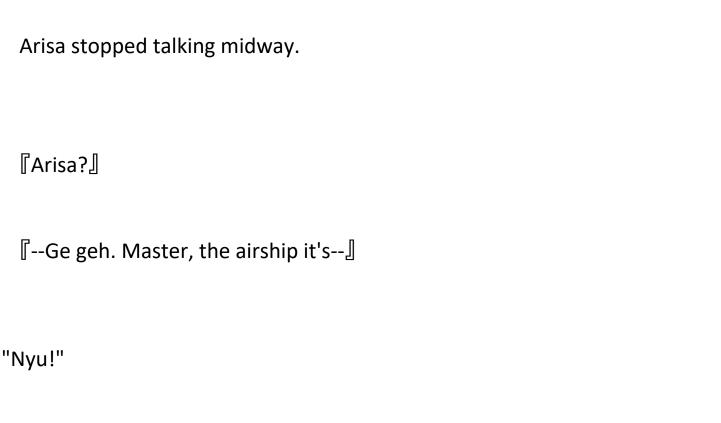
The Wraith Lord screamed out grossly and charged at us while brandishing its bishop's staff.

--Oh?

I was going to purify it with some anti-Undead light magic, but since its face felt familiar, I stopped myself and punched it with a mana-clad fist instead.



[I see, then--]



While Arisa was finishing her line, Tama's ears stood up as she peerlessly demolished the enemy with acrobatic moves.

With the latest model of the Golden Armor, the helmet's ear ornament will move to match Tama's ears inside, it's really cute.

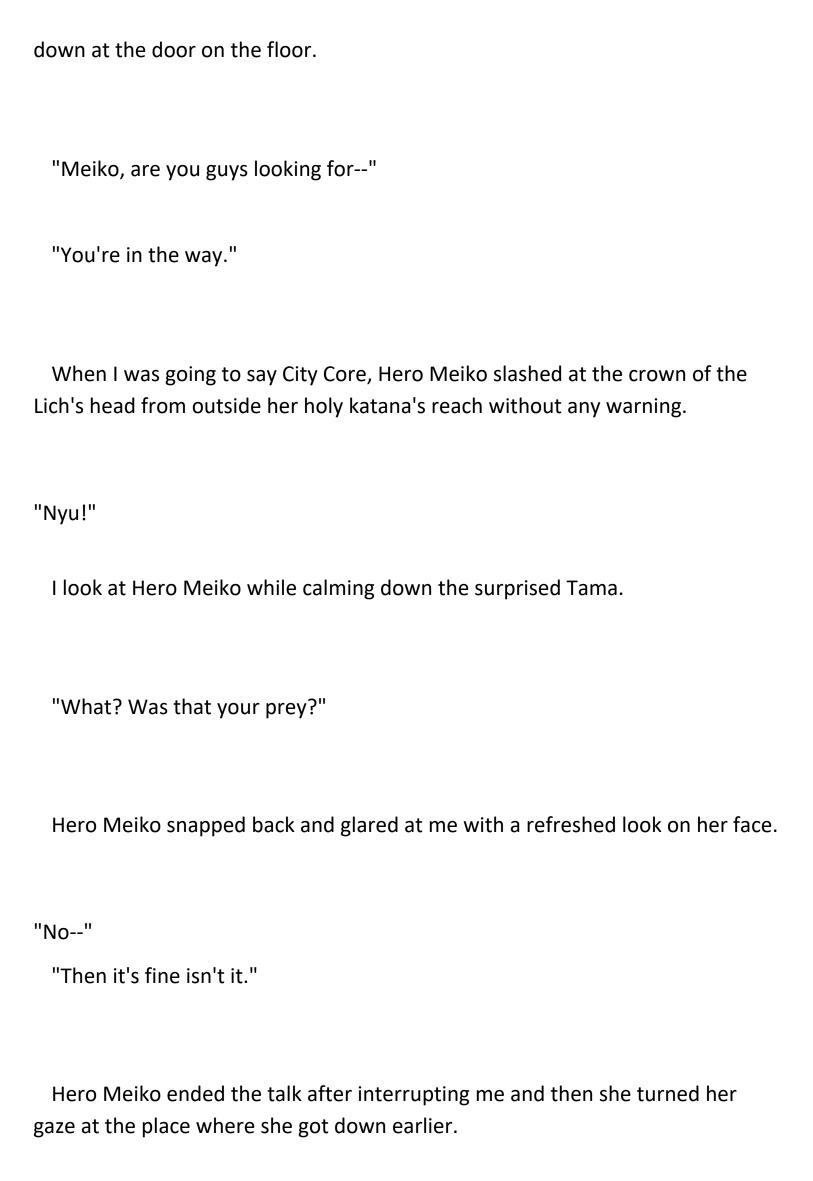
I checked on the movements of the dots in radar using Parallel Thinking, the large Saga Empire airship that was pursuing Demon Ships had just passed through the sky above the city.

I opened the map to see if the airship had some problems, but immediately after I did so, a huge tremor assaulted the underground hall along with a slight reaction from Crisis Perception.

The ceiling broke apart, Demon Ship's tip jumped out of it and went on to hit

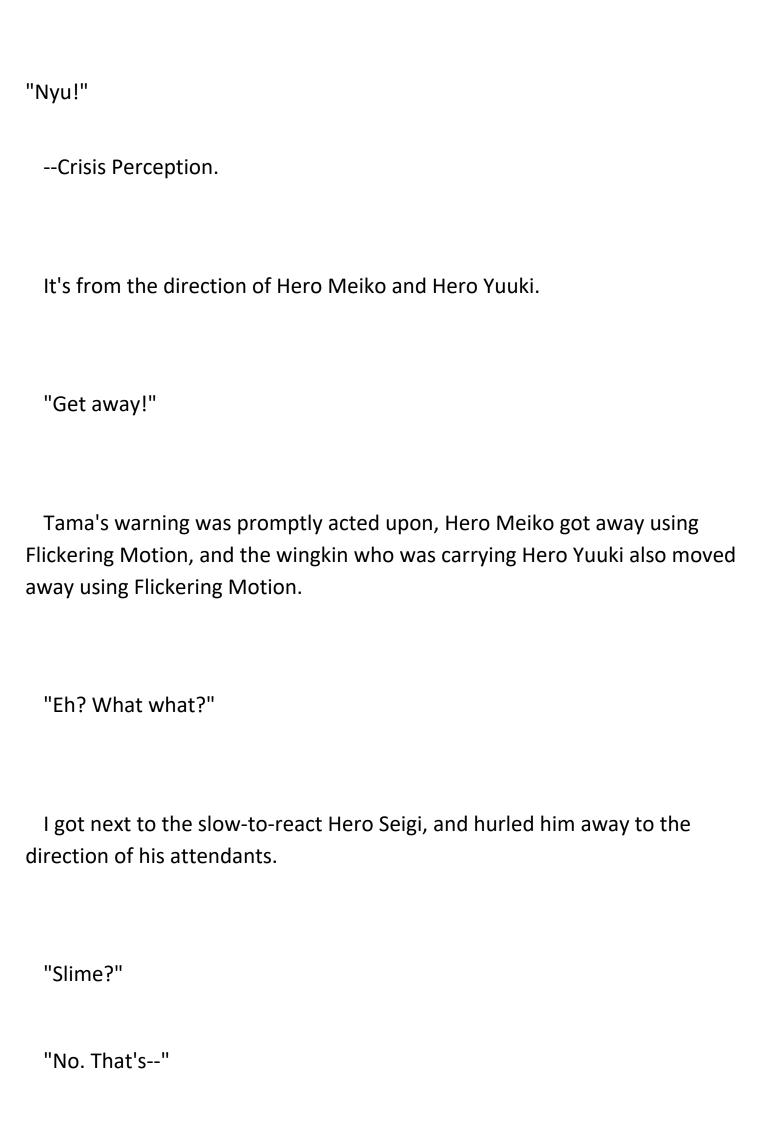
the ground. The splinters flying here from the cloud of dust were all kicked about by Tama who did it while uttering [Nin nin]. Looks like she's obliterated all the Ghosts and Wraiths already. I turn around to face the invading Demon Ship, but there doesn't seem any need to deal with it. As the Demon Ship disappeared into black mist, Hero Meiko showed up while holding a holy sword shaped like a Japanese katana. It's different from the holy sword she wielded before, must be something she took from her Unique Skill [Unlimited Armory (Endless Swords)]. [Master! Are you all right? Hey, master!] Both me and Tama are fine. Are you okay yourself? Oh good. We're fine over here. Or maybe we can get into the bath together later, and you can look if I'm hurt anywhere---













Well, even before that, no oracle was ever given about the greater demon's raid. Looks like Parion Holy Land is more hated by God Parion than I thought.

lord's appearance in this land.

[Master!]

Arisa who was standing by above ground called through [Telephone].

Mia said that the spirits scrambled away all at once!!

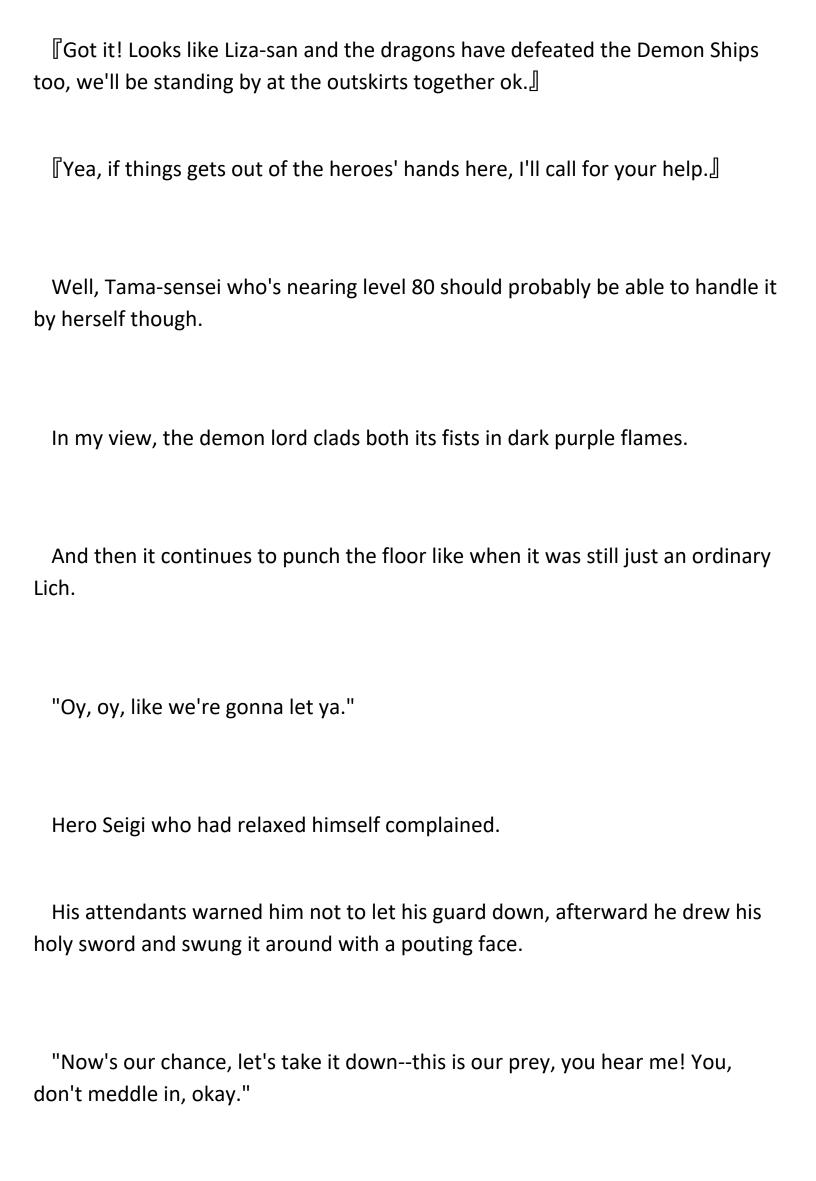
[Yea, it's probably because a demon lord has just been born here.]

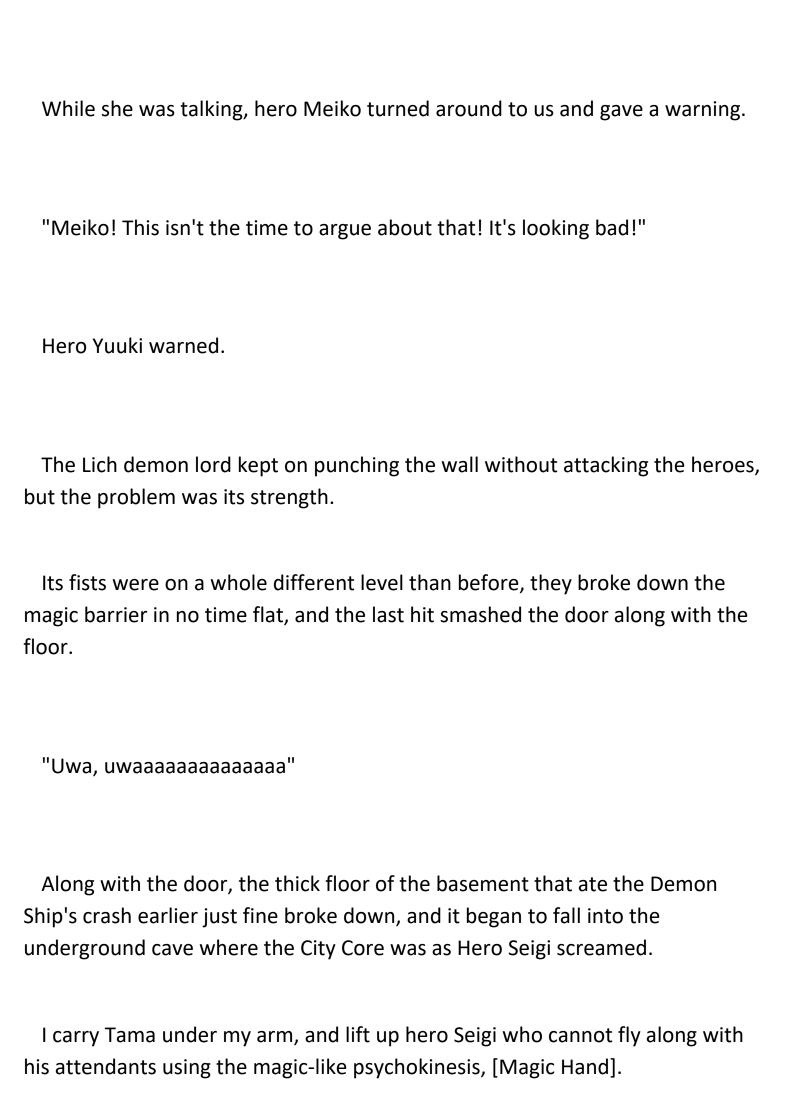
[Demon lord?! Then, we're heading there too.]

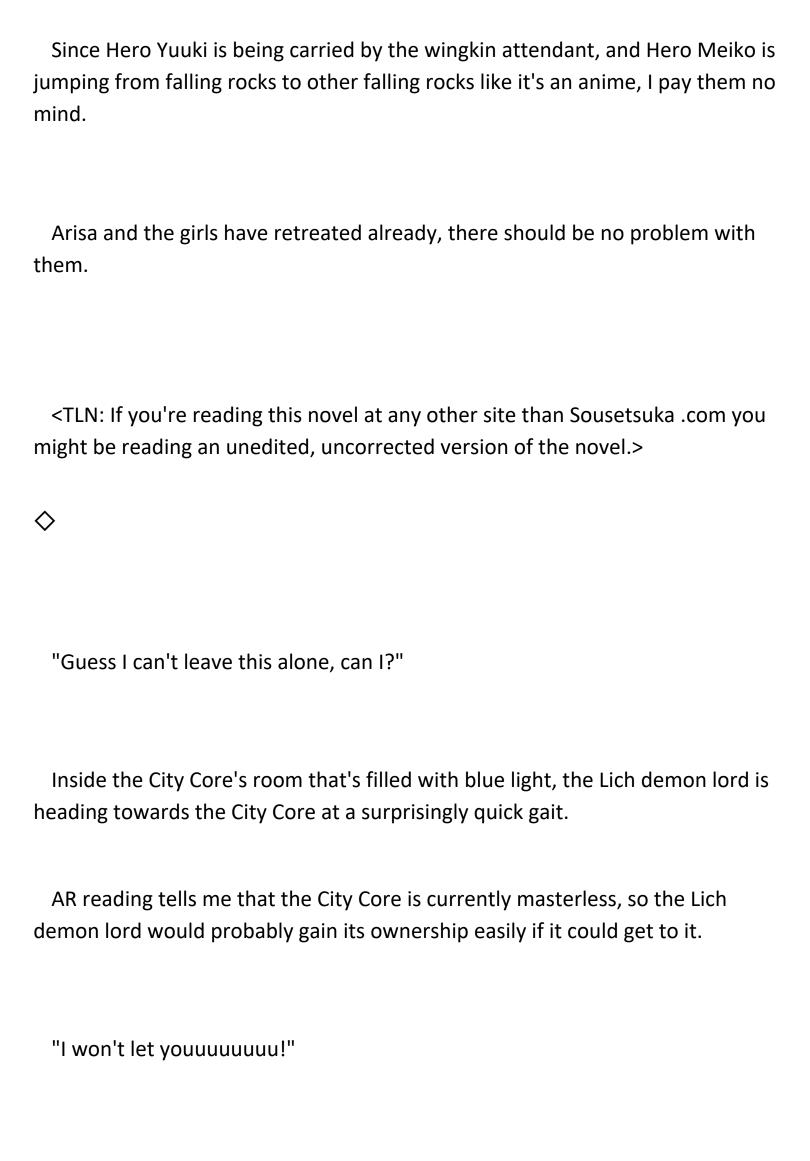
[Nah, you don't need to. This place is a bit cramped, it'd be hard for you and the girls to wield your powers here. Besides, those Saga Empire heroes are here with us, Tama and I will act as their support.]

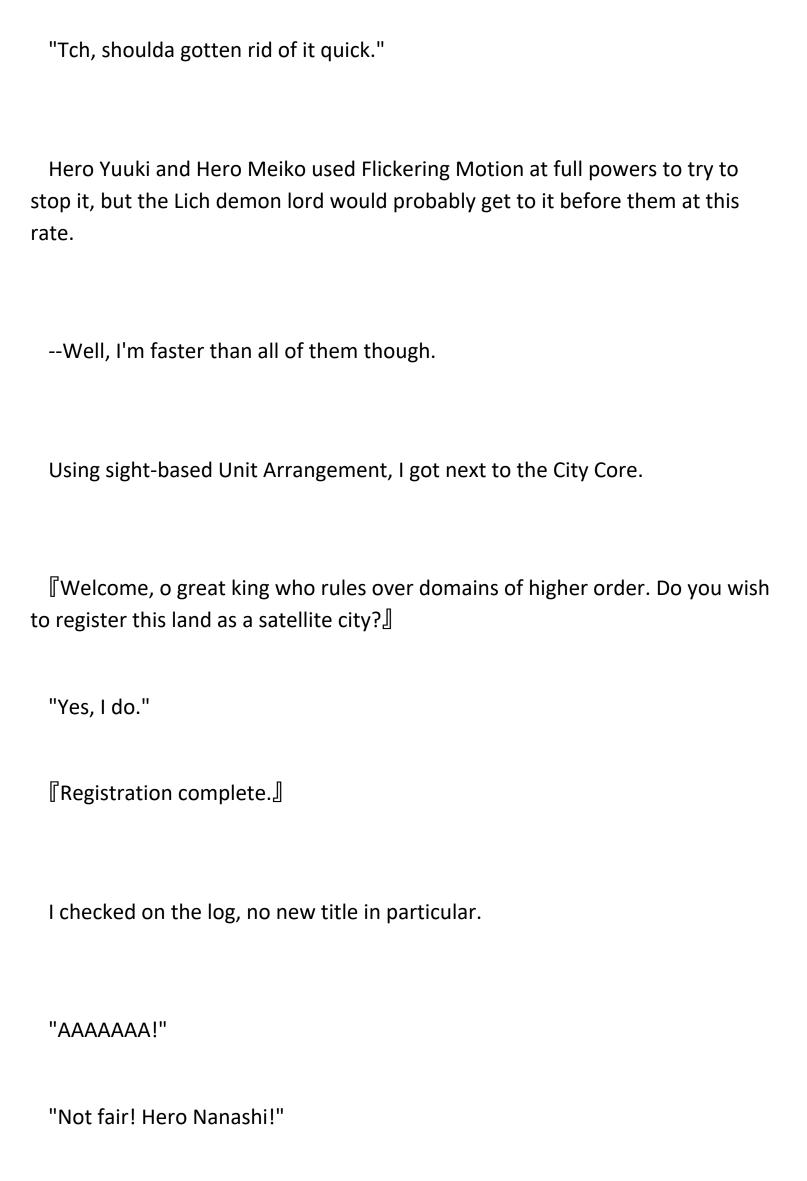
The battle junkie hero, Meiko has the highest level at 63, the hero specialized in wide area attack magic, Hero Yuuki at level 62, and the scout-type hero, Seigi is a bit lower than the two at level 57.

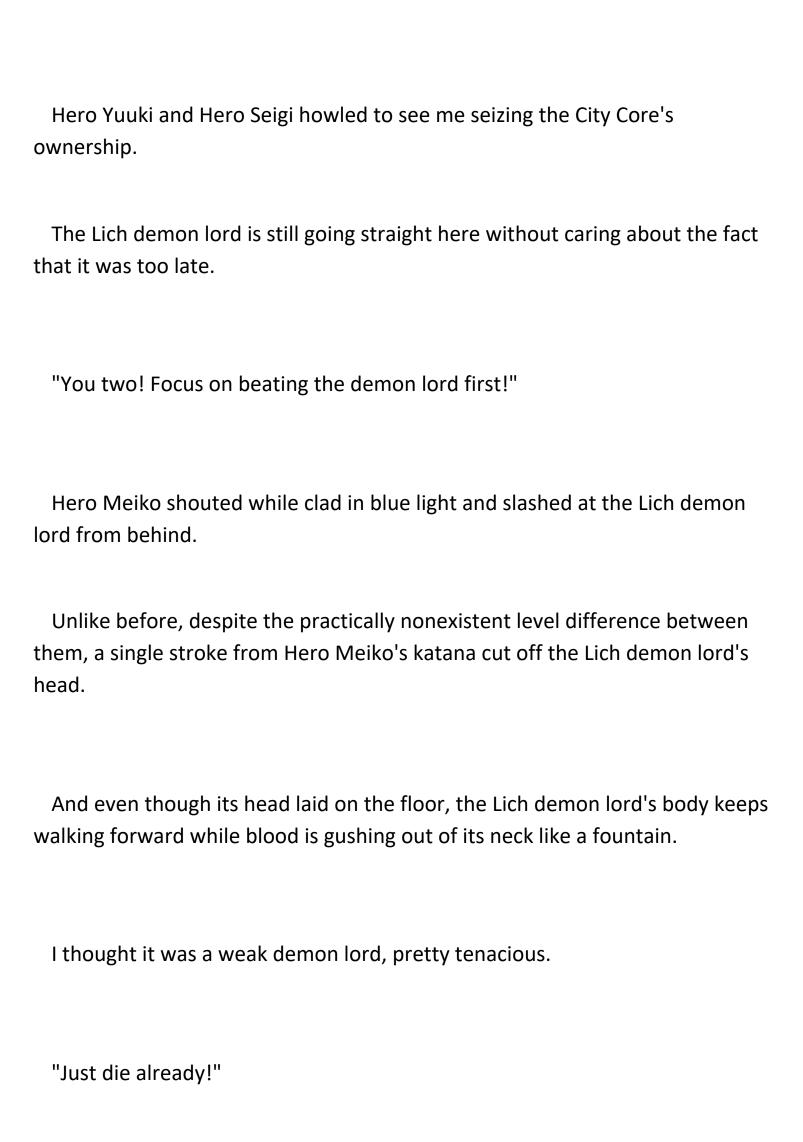
The combination is a bit worrying, but with our and their attendants supports, it should be doable for these three to beat a level 61 demon lord that's specialized in close quarter combat.











Hero Meiko cut away both Lich demon lord's leg with a horizontal slash. The Lich demon lord that has fallen onto the ground is now crawling on the ground toward the City Core. "Ew gross... I don't care if it's Seigi or Meiko, do something about this disgusting thing already." Hero Yuuki shouted out loud from a distant. "I'll do it!" Hero Seigi runs up to the crawling demon lord while almost falling himself. Since the ground here is uneven, it seems he can't use Flickering Motion well. "Here I gooooooo!"

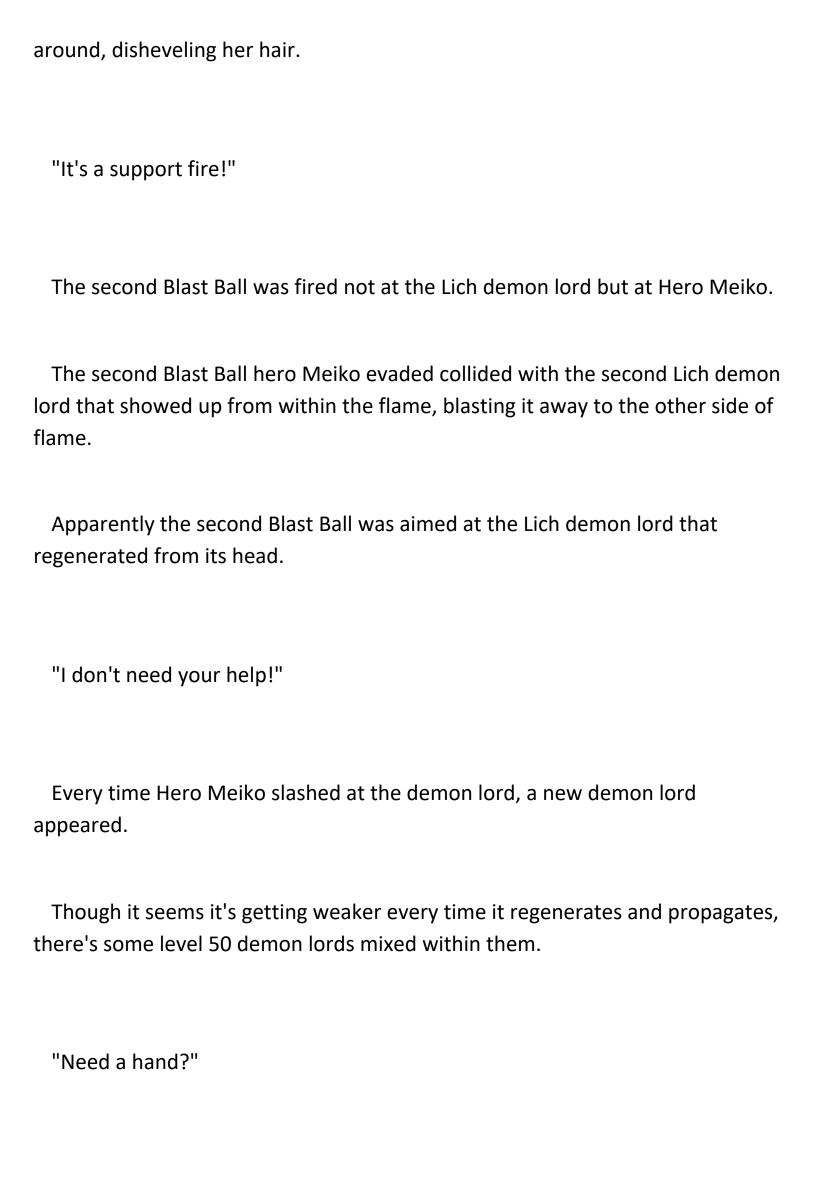
Using his running momentum, Hero Seigi clad in blue light jumps toward the

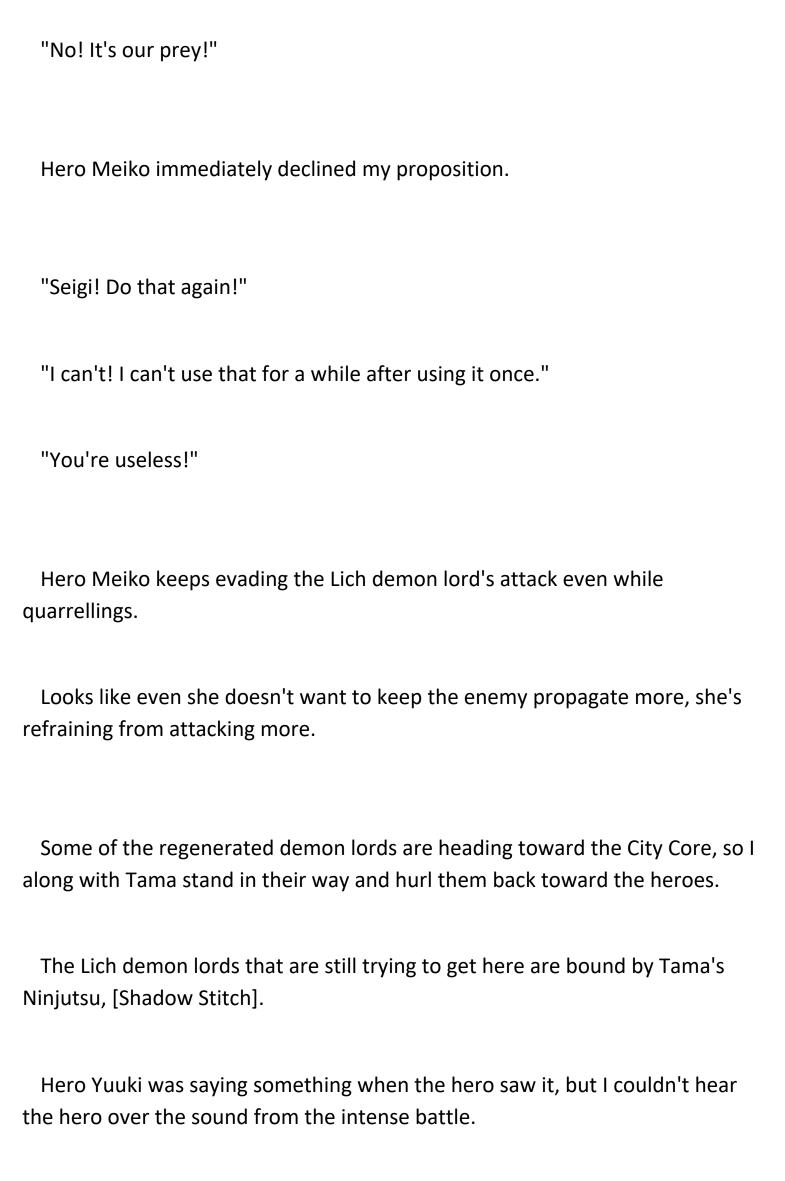
Lich demon lord.

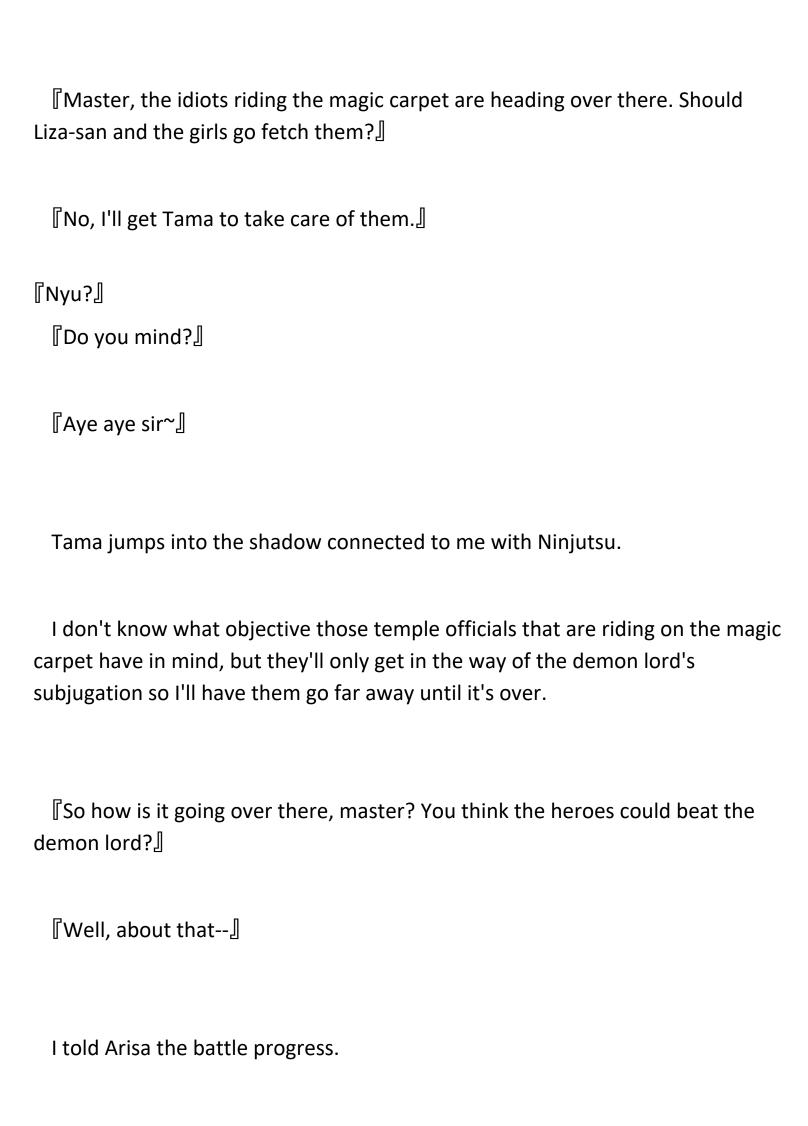
"--<Decapitate All Evil (Justice Prevails)>" The sword that hero Seigi holds emits bright blue light by the power of his Unique Skill. Ordinarily, you'd want to recite the holy verse first to draw out a holy sword's power, but it appears he forgot about it. "Perish, demon loooooooooooord!" The holy sword is lodged deep to the half of the blade in the Lich demon lord's body, and then a moment later, a blue flame burns it down. The Lich demon lord's body convulsed and raged violently, sending hero Seigi flying, but the holy sword stayed lodged in it until it disappeared into black mist. "That was anti climatic." Hero Meiko who had a fierce fight with a demon lord back then muttered while looking unconvinced.

"Weird."
The [God's Fragments] didn't show up even though the demon lord was killed.
More red dots showed up on my Radar. It's hard to distinguish the red dots, maybe because the surroundings have been painted red by the demon lord's blood. And since the floor is emitting blue lights, the dots and the blood get to look purple.
"What do you mean by weird"
Hero Meiko picks up the Lich demon lord's legs and throw them into the blue flame.
"Meiko! Get back!"
Viscous liquid spouted out of the demon lord's legs that were in mid air, and turned back into Lich demon lords in an instant.
Oh right, it had [Infinite Regeneration (Rebirth)] and [Infinite Propagation (Division)].
Hero Meiko evaded the Lich demon lord's fist clad in [Unparalleled









So now Meiko is acting as an evasion shield against four demon lords huh.
Arisa said that in amazement.
[Hey master, from how small of a part could this demon lord regenerate you think?]
『Who knows?』
Per Arisa's request, I tried cutting off the Lich demon's lord finger tip with space magic [< <dimension slasher="">>].</dimension>
[Looks like it can even regenerate from the size of a finger tip.]
"What are you doing! Are you trying to kill me?!"
Since hero Meiko was seriously livid, I isolated the fifth demon lord that sprung up because of my doing inside a transparent barrier of force magic.
As the demon lord is trying to break the barrier, I stack the barrier faster than it could destroy it.

Shock waves produced from magic capable of killing a demon lord is too great, thus I put my hand on the barrier that I had pulled close to me, and projected countless holy blades inside the multi layered barrier, disposing of the demon lord.

It'd be bad if the demon lord regenerated endlessly inside the barrier, so I tried to mimic Hero Seigi and burned down the finely chopped demon lord inside with a holy flame.

>[Holy Flame] Skill Acquired.

>Title [Holy Flame User] Acquired.

>Title [One who Destroys Evils] Acquired.

Whoa, a new skill in a long while.

"A d-demon lord, in an instant?"

"Just what's with this guy! I don't get it!"

"T-that must be a Unique Skill... Y-yes it must be!"

The heroes shouted out loud in perplexion when they saw me beating the demon lord.
I'd like to have a few words with hero Meiko, but since we're still in the heat of a fight, I keep watch over them without talking back.
[Hey, hey, Master? Meiko cut off the demon lord's head at the beginning didn't she?]
『Yes, it was quite a splatter-like scene.』
The blood gush is too much to even be recalled.
[You can create clones from, like, hair and blood, right?]
Arisa abruptly changed the subject.
No, I get what she's trying to say.
[Then, like, can't the demon lord regenerate itself from its blood too?]

As if confirming Arisa's suspicion, the entire surface of my Radar is filled with red light.

Viscous liquids clad in dark purple lights rose up from the ground all at the same time and turned into innumerable Lich demon lords.

The majority of them are level 50, but it's just impossible for these three heroes to fight off more than 100 regenerating demon lords.

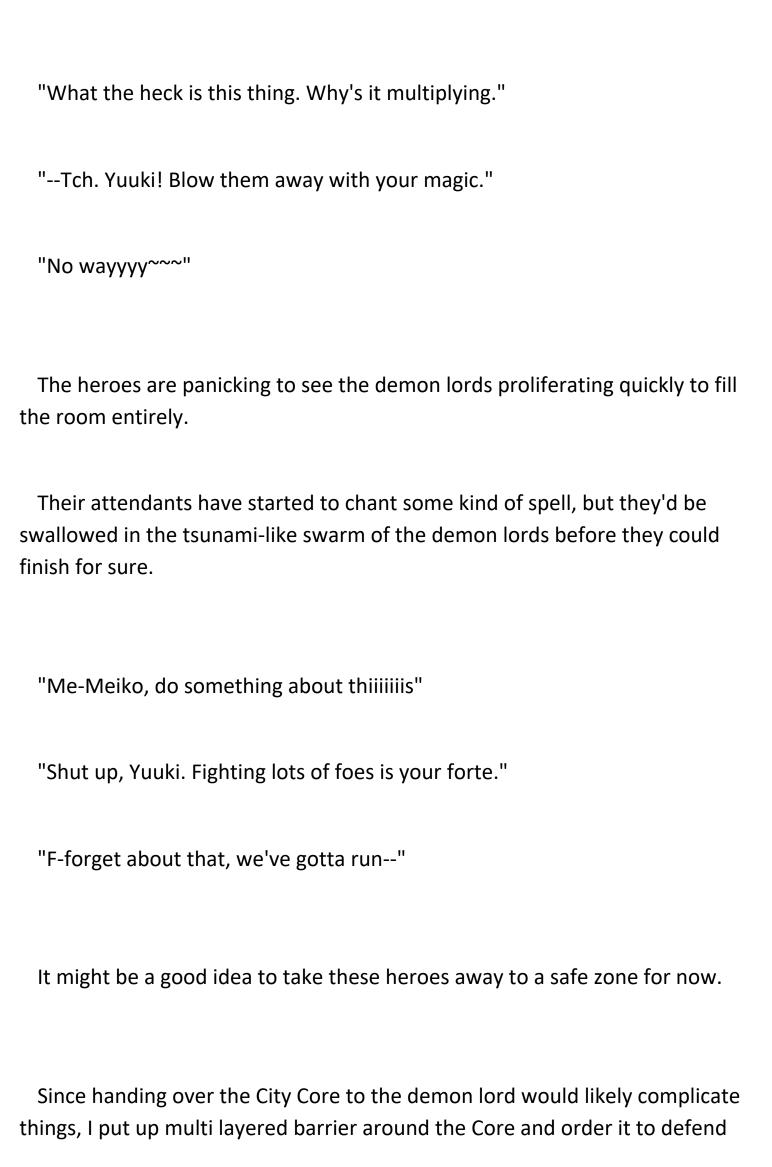
[Everyone, looks like it's about time for the Knights of Gold's turn.]

I called the girls with [Tactical Talk] while securing the heroes with [Magic Hand].

16-64. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (3)

Satou here. You usually find numerous bugs in a program you perfectly put together during the testing period. Rather, a program that doesn't exhibit any bugs during the testing usually hides a nasty bug inside.





itself.			

I dug out a tunnel vertically above me with earth magic [Free Mining], caught the heroes with [Magic Hands], and moved to the faintly visible sky above the sanctuary with sight-based Unit Arrangement.

"Ugyaaaaaaaaa"

"T-the sky? Why the sky?"

"W-where's the demon lords?"

Since Hero Yuuki's scream was getting too loud, I teleported us again to the demolished site of the sanctuary.

After a slight pause, an object that was a mix of ultramarine and dark colors clad in purple phosphorescence gushed out of the vertical tunnel I created as if it was breaking out.

It barely has any trace of its original form, but that's probably the swarm of Lich demon lords.

It's like an aggregation of sludge-like mucus and old rag down to the inside of its body.

Only 10 demon lords have come out above the ground.

The path seems to have been clogged up, the remaining demon lords are wriggling around in the tunnels and the City Core's room.

"Demon lord, dieeeeeeeeeee!"

Hero Meiko rushes up toward the demon lords while clad in blue light.

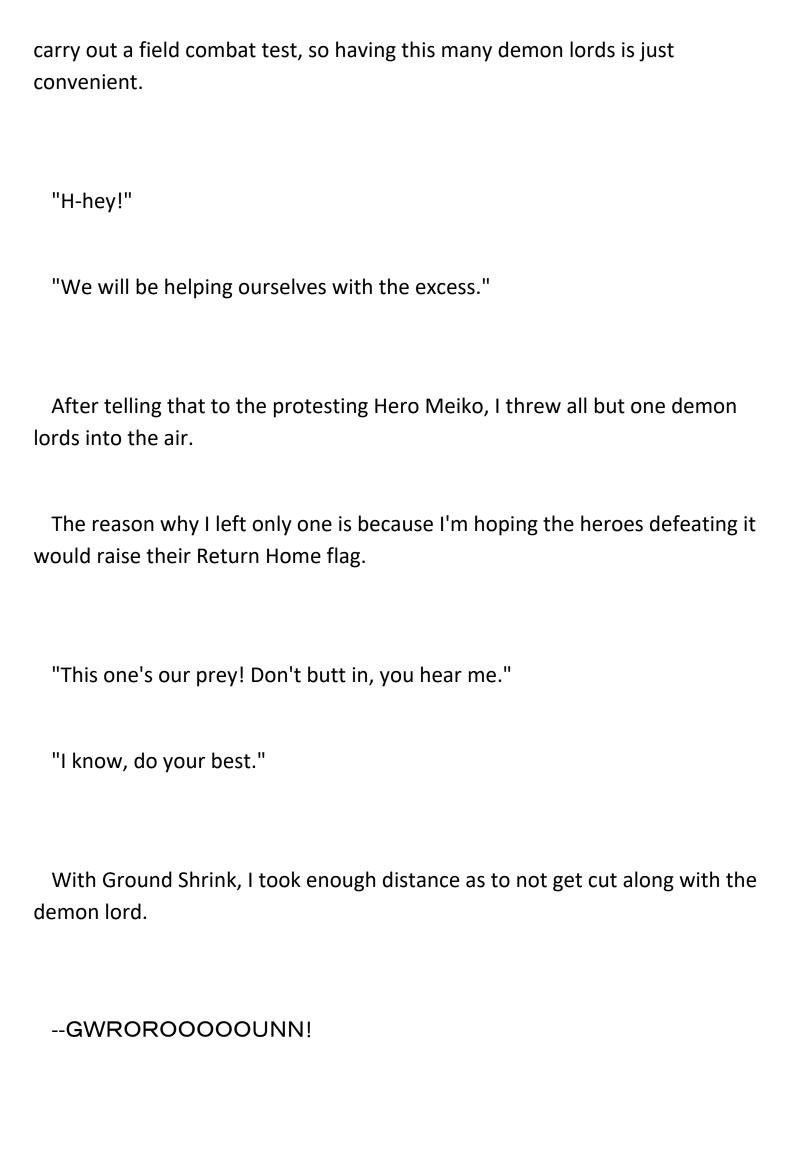
Fighting against 10 demon lords at the same time should be too much even for Hero Meiko and her perfect evasion-type Unique Skill.

-- GWROROOOOUNN!

I turned my sight at the direction of the black dragon Heiron's roar and saw Liza and the others circling in the sky.

I got close to the Lich demon lords with Ground Shrink, caught them with [Magic Hands] and then I threw them up into the air.

We're using this opportunity to go all out mainly to relieve the girls' stress and



The entire sky flashed, and several Lich demon lords were burned down into black mist by the Black Dragon Heiron's breath.

Pochi riding on the white dragon and Liza flying with her Powered Exoskeleton close in on the three demon lords who have withstood a direct hit of Heiron's breath.

The Infant Dragon that was flying together with them used its breath but it couldn't manage to beat even one demon lord, and cried out sorrowfully.

[TOU, nanodesu!]

Pochi's holy sword clashed with a demon lord's fist, blue colored glints of flash and purple sparks danced in the air.

[UORYAAAAAAAAA nanodesu!!]

Perhaps due to effect of [True Hero] title Dog Hero Pochi has, her clashing holy sword emits out a dazzling blue flash of light, burning the Lich demon lord's body.

Pochi's holy sword managed to bisect the demon lord, however it also didn't escape unharmed as the entire blade down to the base broke into pieces.

Liza evaded a Lich demon lord's fists and stabs its head with her dragon spear, then a whirling blue light unleashed from her finishing move blew away the upper half of the demon lord's body.

However, she couldn't dodge the innumerable feelers coming from the other demon lord as they passed by, the side of her Powered Exoskeleton's defensive barrier was pulverized, damaging the exoskeleton suit itself.

Even though these two have overwhelming advantages in levels, a demon lord's Unique Skills is still not something to underestimate at huh.

Master, forgive me. The defensive barrier of Assault Mode has been breached.

Save the reporting for later, switch to the balanced Battle Mode or Defense Mode.

[Acknowledged.]

After telling that to Liza, I turn my gaze at the demon lords that slipped out of their assault.

[Ey!]

With a cute yell, a blue laser-like shot from Lulu's accelerated cannon pierced

through one of the demon lords.

Judging from the caliber, it must be a holy shell from the big caliber accelerated cannon loaded in her Floating Fort.

[Ey! Ey!]

The next holy shell that Lulu shot blew away the upper half of another demon lord, however--

[Uhaa, they're tough even with such low levels, as expected of demon lords.]

[Yeah, it's unbelievable.]

The next target demon lord struck the holy shell with its fist clad in purple light.

Of course, the demon lord didn't come out unscathed resorting to such a reckless act of interception, the holy shell that got turned into spray by the fist ended up blowing away its upper half along with it.

"Now, Yuuki!"

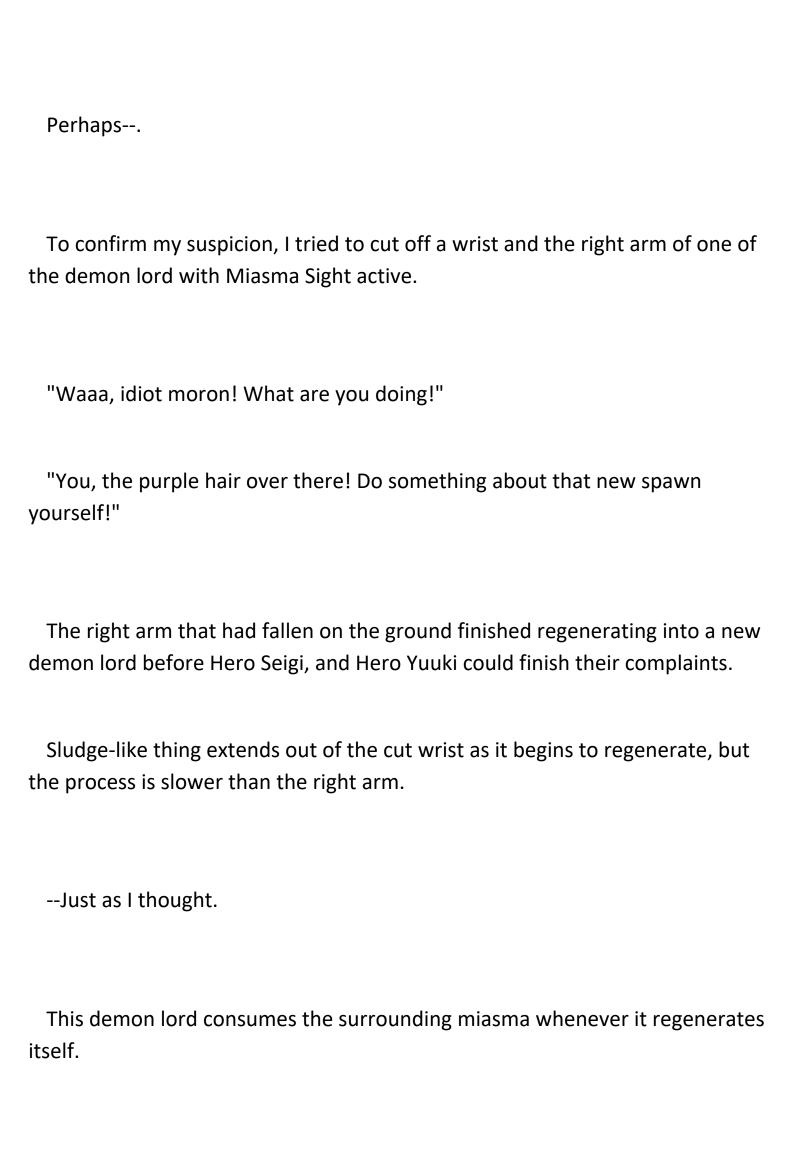
"I got it!" Wide area flame magic shot from the ground burn down the falling remains of the demon lords. Hero Yuuki's fire magic did reduce the demon lords' health, but these demon lords appear to have high resistance against magic, it's not really effective. [Arisa, if you would.] [Okay!] A blue flame that was unleashed seconds later erased the remains of demon lords that had begun to regenerate in mid-air. It's [Blue Inferno] that once burned down greater demons in the battle at the Weasel Empire. "[Blue Inferno]? If I just link myself with Michael, I also--" Hero Yuuki sounded frustrated. "Meiko! They're multiplying! The demon lords are multiplying, stop cutting off

their limbs!!"

"Shut it, Seigi! How'd you expect me to beat them without slashing at them!" "Stop fighting you two! Seigi, are your flame still not usable yet?" "I'm telling you, I can't do it for a while! Can't you just use purification flame yourself!" "Meiko would be roasted along if I use it!" "Don't you have magic that can distinguish between friends and foes?" "I don't do those kinds of half-assed magic!" Turning around toward the quarreling heroes, scenes of Hero Meiko fighting against three newly spawned demon lords on top of a dark red ground unfolded before me. Judging from the blood splat and pieces of meat lying around, there appears to be some kind of condition for this demon lord to proliferate, as it only does it when Hero Meiko cut off its limbs.

Despite the demon lords rampaging around here, the miasma around the holy city is thin.

I've got a feeling that it's related to the miasma density.



The reason why the regeneration rate differs depending on the cut limbs must be because of the difference in the amount of miasma contained within those parts.

And the reason why this demon lords aren't regenerating from the blood splat must be because it's lacking in miasma.

"Purify the surrounding miasma! The demon lord will stop multiplying if you do!!"

I shouted toward the priests and magicians who were among the heroes' troupe.

I forgot to use Hero Nanashi's tone, but well, no matter.

I gave the task to the hero's attendants since Hero Yuuki seemed bad at precise magic control.

As long as I'm around, my Spirit Light would dissipate the miasma, but there's no guarantee that I will always be around to protect them.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



[--Next]

Pressed by Mia who had finished summoning her artificial spirit, I threw the demon lords that regenerated from Hero Meiko's and my slashes toward her direction.

Do it.

A gigantic platinum colored wolf showed itself from beyond the wreckage.

That's an artificial spirit shaped like a great wolf born from Mia's spirit magic, [Mythology Eater Wolf].

Mia whose MP is almost twice as much as Arisa cannot summon it by herself, she needs the help of a Warship Wand loaded with a huge amount of Philosopher's Stones.

--FW00000000000WN.

The great wolf let out a howl that was like a chilly wind reverberating in a

wintry mountain, and it exhaled a sparkling white breath toward the demon lords.

The demon lords that were bathed in the breath disappeared into black mist.

There were some who tried to oppose it with their fists and feelers clad in purple light, but they all vanished without the slightest bit of resistance.

Though it's probably only right given it's an anti-god magic, I never would have thought it would be this overwhelming.

"W-what is that thing?"

"New enemy? Is it a new enemy?"

"M-my sword shall cut down anything, no matter the opponent."

I don't blame the heroes and their attendants for getting shaken up.

Just like the other artificial spirits, this great wolf also requires an enormous amount of mana to maintain its form.

It ran out of mana provision before long and disappeared into white mist, scattering white crystal snow around.

[Vanishing right after it was summoned and unleashed its finishing move, just like the summons in Final Quest, don't you think.]
Arisa nonchalantly threw a reference to a hugely popular national game along with her commentary.
Adding more mana supply can be done by using a Warship Wand, but there's none that can continuously maintain the highly intensive [Mythology Eater Wolf], it's not that simple.
You'd end with a Warship Wand the size of a small island for it.
[Master, any enemy still remaining?]
[Yeah, there's still around 90 of them.]
[Uhaa, and all of them are around level 50? If we just cultivate this, I could get to level 80 before today's]

Arisa stopped midway and began talking to someone else.

[--Yes yes, I'll be sure to tell him.]

[What's wrong, Arisa?]

The miko-san that Tama saved was getting fussy, she told us to stop defiling the holy city at once~

Far from defiling, the miasma in the holy city has never been thinner.

Though, even if the area around the sanctuary has turned into nothing but rubbles, as far as my eyes can see, around 40% of the buildings are still standing, they must be afraid that our fight and Hero Yuuki's attack magic would sink the holy city in flames.

In fact the flame magic Hero Yuuki shot out had turned one section of the holy city into ash.

I let them to duke it out since the site had turned into ruins anyway, but perhaps I should have brought them all into one of the sub-spaces I had instead.

Got it. Let's change the battlefield.

"< <dance>> Wind Stiletto!"</dance>
Seven stilettos flew off silver knight Air, aka Zena-san's, hands and danced in the air while playing clear refreshing sounds.
"< <wear>> Wind Stiletto!"</wear>
Stilettos clad in dazzling blue purifying wind tore up a demon lord.
Zena-san who's done reciting the Holy Verse begins to chant an advanced level wind spell.
"Watch out desuwa! Ze"
The Lich demon lord clad in purple light is closing in on Zena-san while evading the swarm of stilettos coming at it.
『It's Silver Knight Air.』

"Yes, that desuwa!"

While receiving the assistance from [<<Intelligent Item>>] Raka she had equipped, Lady Karina puts herself between the demon lord and Zena-san.

Lady Karina attempts to block the purple light clad fist of the Lich demon lord by crossing her arms together.

[You must not! -- Emergency Deployment, Phalanx!]

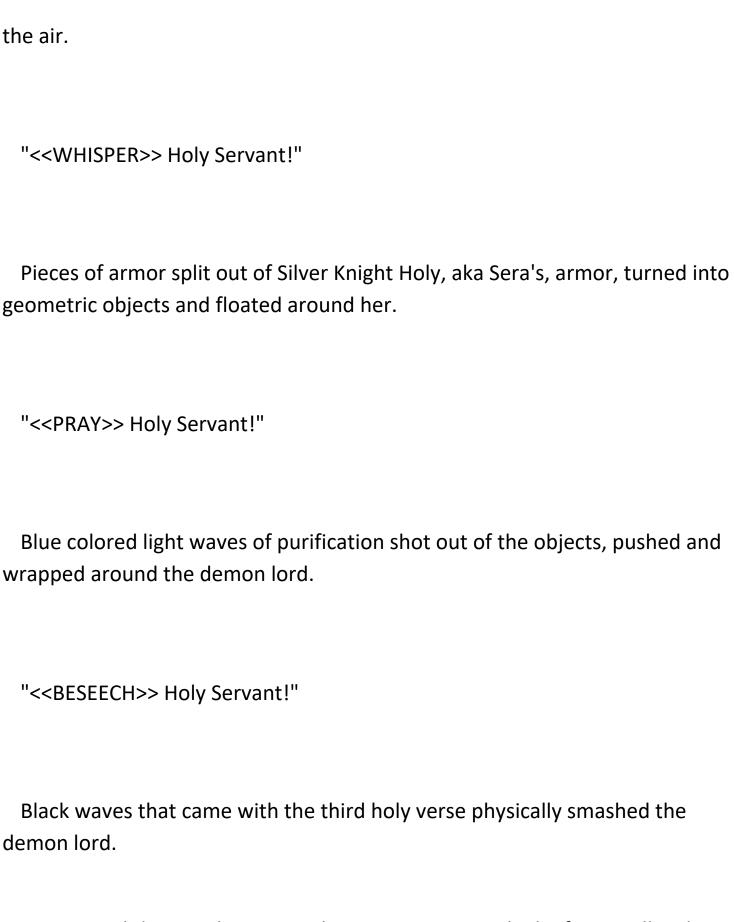
Raka who had judged that raw defense alone wouldn't be able to take on the punch deployed the defensive shields loaded in Lady Karina's silver armor.

The multi layered barrier fashioned like an umbrella that's as tough as Castle clashes with the Lich demon lord's fist.

The demon lord's fist that pulverizes everything gets pushed back by an explosion that occurs every time a defensive layer is destroyed through Phalanx spell art that works like a reactive armor.

The sludge-shaped feelers that extended out of the Lich demon lord's body assaulted Lady Karina on both sides, but she was already long gone.

The Lich demon lord looked around and caught sight of Lady Karina flying in



I concocted these Holy Verses when my tension ran high after an all nighter session. The fact that the first two verses sound similar to the revival spell of a certain dungeon game is just an accident. I came up with the last one randomly. No regret.

The demon lord tore through the assault with its purple light clad fists and feelers, but it couldn't manage to smash all the waves at once, thus it's been stopped dead on its track.

While leaving the roles to the Objects, Sera has begun the chant for advanced level holy magic.

"Let's do this, Raka-san!"

[--Umu. <<SURGE>> Rending Force Armor!]

Silver Knight Kung-Fu, aka Lady Karina, who had run up high in the sky began to make her fall in a sharp jumping kick posture while being clad in a blinding light from the holy verse Raka recited.

[<<STARFALL>> Rending Force Armor!]

Lady Karina who wears dozens times the normal gravity through Gravity Control is accelerating to a meteoric speed.

"KARI--"

[It's Kung-Fu]

"KUNGFU DRILL KIIIII---"

Lady Karina who couldn't finish shouting the full name of the technique since she corrected herself due to Raka's quip crashed into the demon lord's defensive barrier.

An intense clash between purple and blue lights happened only in an instant.

The demon lord's defensive barrier that had been whittled down by Zena-san and Sera's attacks couldn't endure Lady Karina's finishing move that had been reinforced with holy verses, and got broken into pieces.

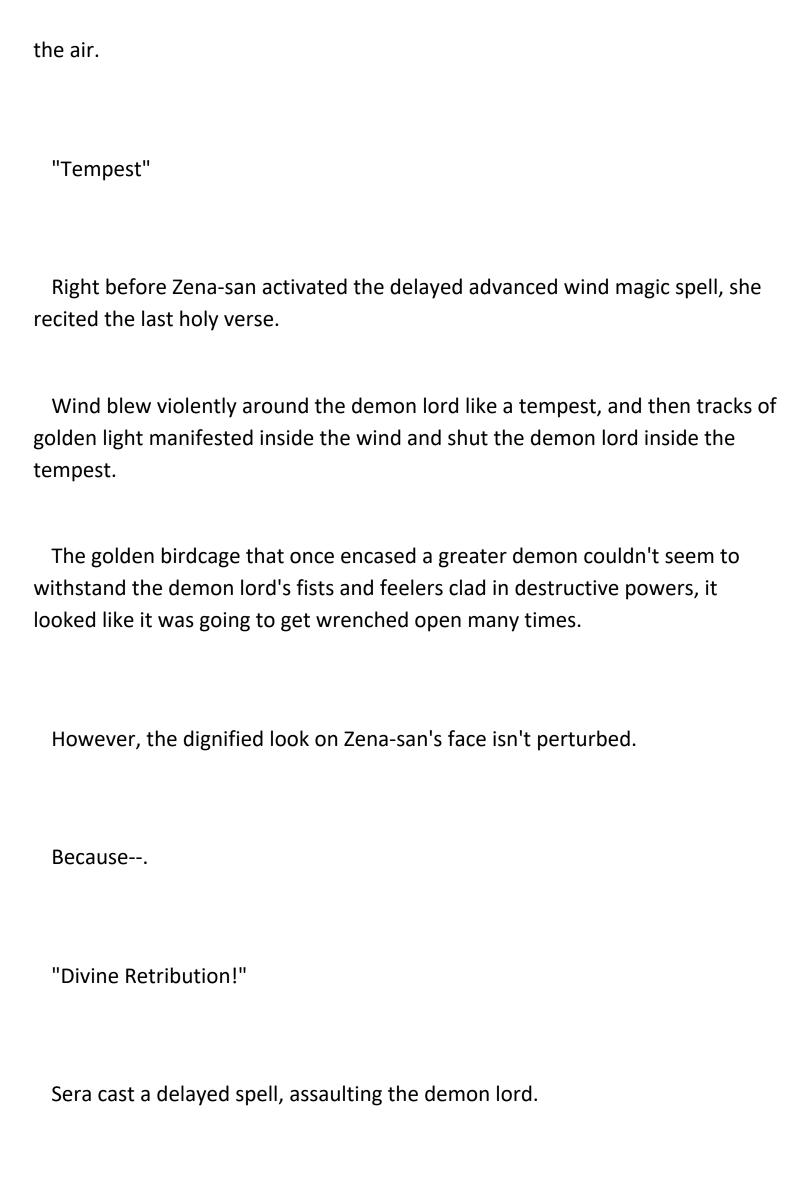
Lady Karina who broke through the demon lord's upper right half pierced deep into the ground as dust and rocks flew everywhere from her momentum, sinking deep underground just like that.

That last error was just like her, but the power of that one strike is still quite something.

"Air!"

"Yes!"

Zena-san's [Wind Stilettos] lodged themselves into the demon lord who had lost the upper right half of its body, and then the stilettos lifted it up high into



The holy magic she cast was originally a ritual magic made possible to be cast by herself with the assistance of the geometric objects floating around Sera.

The demon lord is crumbling into ashen sand starting from tips, the tempest and birdcage help to accelerate the process.

--HWWWWWOOOOOOMWN.

Purple light floods the outside of the tempest birdcage as the crumbling body of the demon lord crept out of it.

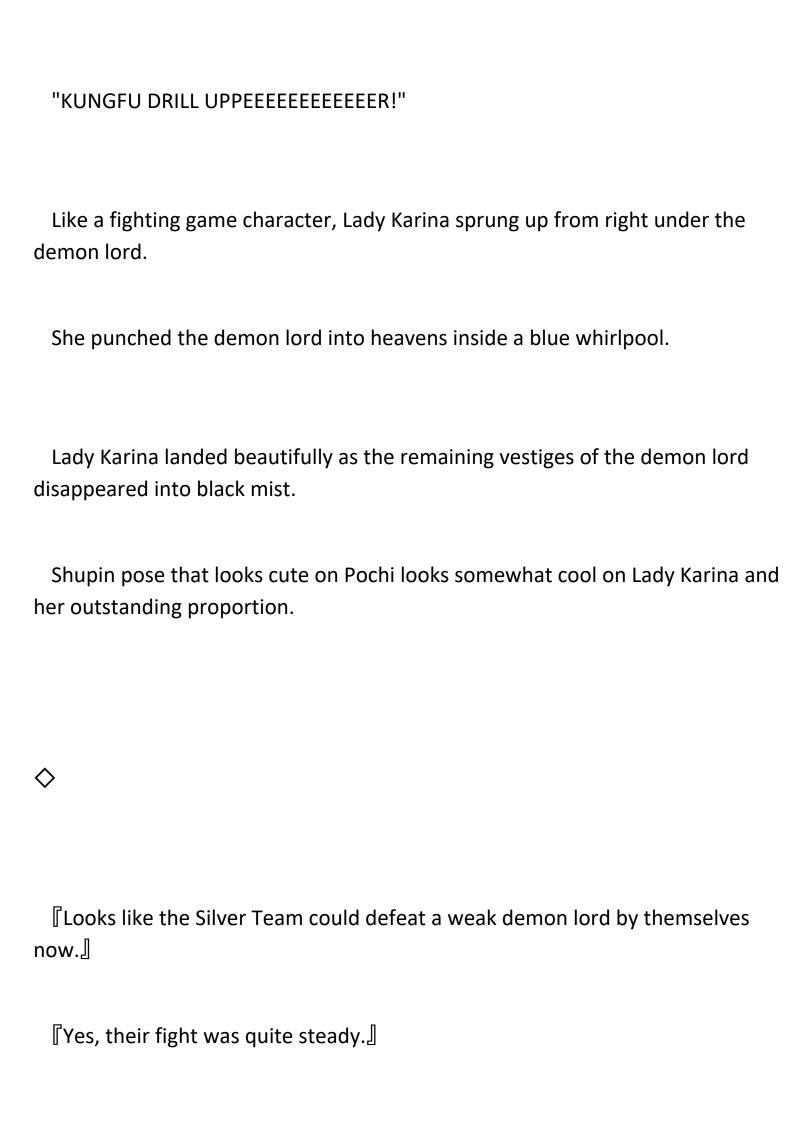
Normally, it should have been long dead by now, but the Unique Skill this demon lord has, [Unlimited Regeneration (Rebirth)] is resisting the spell.

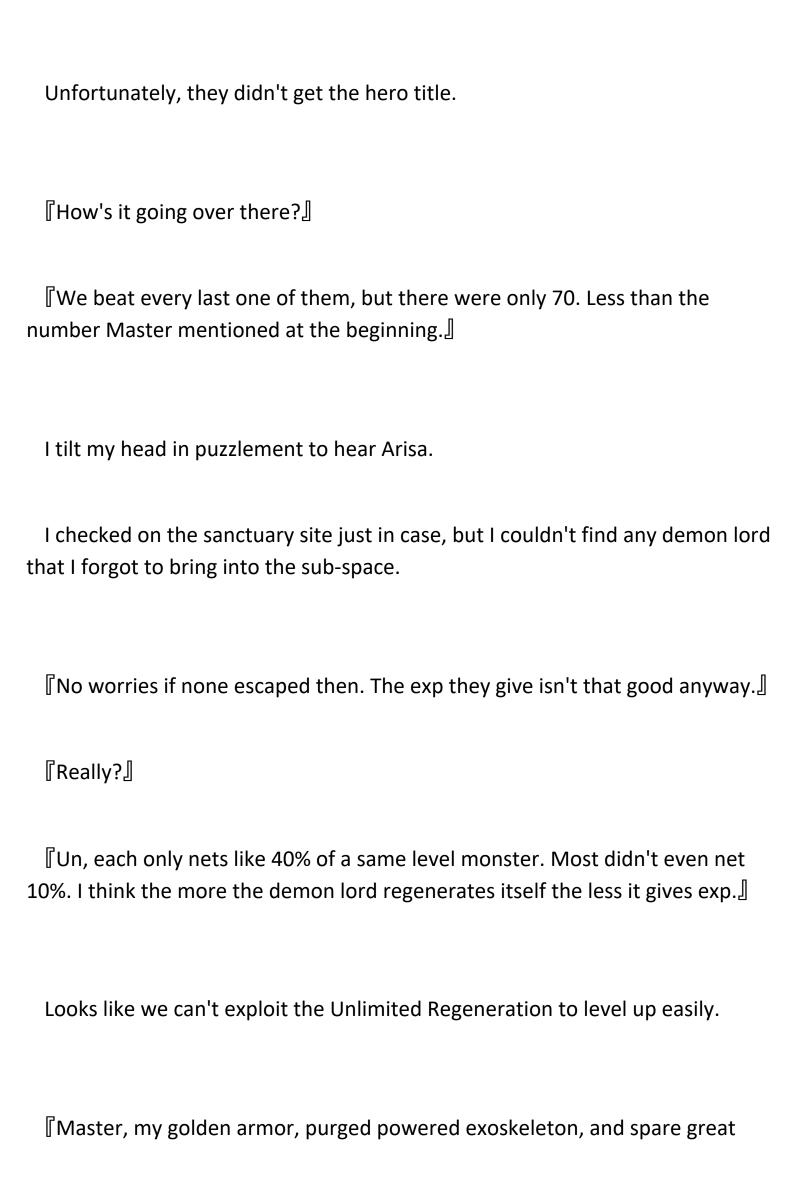
"This isn't the time to preserve my stilettos--<<Fill"

"Hold it, Air."

Sera stopped Zena-san who was going to recite the last holy verse.

Before Sera could reply to Zena-san who looked at her asking for her reason, a shout gave her the answer she sought.





shields have all been destroyed, so I apologize.

I had equipped Nana with a defense oriented Powered Exoskeleton on top of her golden armor, but apparently, it was destroyed in the fight against multiple demon lords.

I had it furnished with a mechanic that could defend against even stuff like dragon fangs, but that apparently got broken through because the number was more than what I anticipated.

The battle was fiercer than I thought, even Ninja Tama had her golden armor damaged.

There's no need to apologize. I mean Nana has accomplished her duty to protect everyone after all.

It's more than enough for me if Nana came out without suffering serious injury.

[Yes, Master. I shall be sure to handle it better next time, so I declare.]

Just like with Nana, the powered exoskeletons still have room for improvement it seems.

[So, are those heroes still going at it?]

[Aah, seems like they drew the short end of the stick.]

I turned my gaze to look at the heroes who were fighting against a strongish demon lord.

16-65. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (4)

Satou here. I often found myself getting absorbed and lost in thought when I encountered something that piqued my interest. Usually it's no biggie, but it gives me many troubles if I do it when I'm with my friends or my loved one...



"This is kind of amazing."

Arisa muttered while watching the heroes.

Before her eyes, Hero Meiko is engaging the lich demon lord in a high speed battle while three rings of flames are flaring up around them as if encircling

them.
"Meiko! I'll burn down all the blood and pieces of meat! Keep slashing at it without worry!"
Hero Yuuki shouted at Hero Meiko.
"Gotcha!"
Hero Meiko replied curtly, but the corner of her mouth lifted up in glee as she switched from full-on dodging to attacking.
"Give it your all, Meiko! That's the real body of the split demon lords! My Unique Skill tells me that!"
Hero Seigi shouted out loud from outside the rings, but it didn't seem to reach Hero Meiko who kept slashing at the demon lord in ecstasy.
There's nothing that differentiate it in my AR reading, but Hero Seigi's Unique Skills, either the [Evil Search (Where's the bad one)] and [Justice Eye (There's only one truth)], must have seen through it.

In fact, the demon lord that's fighting Hero Meiko does move far quicker and fight more skilfully than the rest.

Hero Meiko herself is even better and faster than the demon lord though, thanks to the dodging skills assisted by her Unique Skill, and her battle sense.

"Yuuki-sama! Some pieces of meat flew off!"

"--Great Forge!"

Hero Yuuki's attendant discovered a piece of meat that was starting to transform into a sludge-like feeler while regenerating mid-air, responding to that, Hero Yuuki evaporated the meat piece with an advanced fire spell that would even melt magic metal.

"Yuuki! Some fell out behind the flame! Burn it down before it regenerates!"

"Tch, easy for you to say! --Great Forge!"

Hero Seigi who was emitting blue light pointed out a piece of meat behind the flame rings that had started to regenerate.

At a glance, Hero Seigi may look like he's not doing anything, but it appears that he's playing an important role in this demon lord subjugation as well.



Zena-san is looking at Hero Meiko and the others with a worried look.

Even for Hero Meiko and her perfect evasion-type Unique Skill, fighting oneon-one against a demon lord seems to be quite taxing, sometimes she dodges too far away consuming her stamina, other times she evades too narrowly, breaking parts of her armor.

She suffered small wounds whenever her armor got torn off, but Hero Seigi's attendants healed those wounds even without me giving a hand.

"It's okay, don't worry."

Right when I said that, Hero Meiko made a mistake and chopped off the demon lord's wrist.

"Meiko you dunce!"

"Seigi! Can't you use your flame yet?"

"I told you not yet!"

"Damn it--Great Forge!"





Mixed among the black mist that came out of the demon lord's corpse, the usual dark purple light orb--[God's Fragment], showed up.

Even thought it had three Unique Skills, only one [God's Fragment] showed up.

And it's acting differently than the usual fragments.

[.....]

Usually they would be grumbling about some wicked-sounding stuff here, but today, it only floated around anxiously before it began to silently ascend to heavens.

I don't plan to let it get away, but the people who should perform their role here, the heroes' attendants were quarreling about [whose attendant should seal it], so I gave them a warning, "It'll get away if you don't act soon."

That apparently would be bad, the attendants took their [Divine Talisman] from their bosom in a fluster and pointed them toward the God's Fragment.

"""O Divine Talisman! [Seal] these evils away!"""

The purple light was wrapped in blue light and got sucked into a Talisman the

wingkin attendant held that was double the size than the others.

Hero Meiko's attendant looked frustrated, but during Hero Meiko's fight against the demon lord, he was simply watching from the safest location without even healing her, so I think he's not really qualified to complain here.

"Hey, master."

Arisa pulled my sleeve and asked, "Did you see these heroes' titles?"

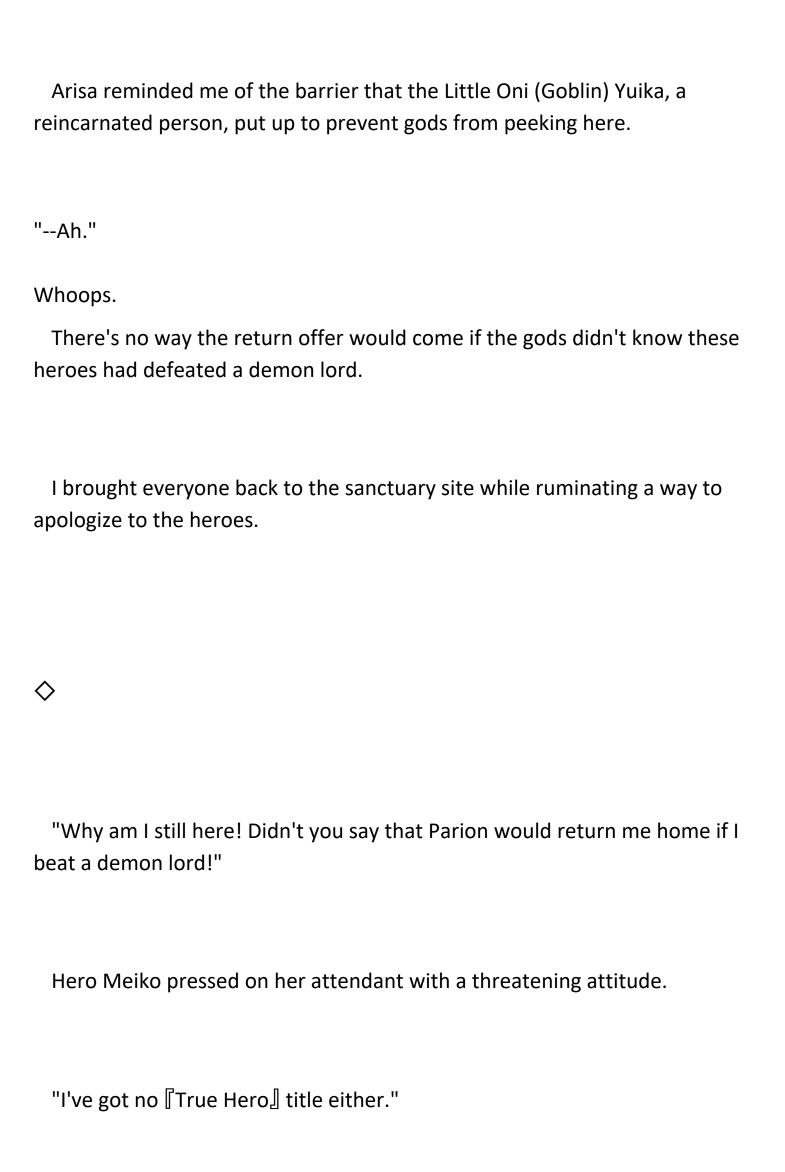
After looking at it as advised by Arisa, I got what she was trying to say.

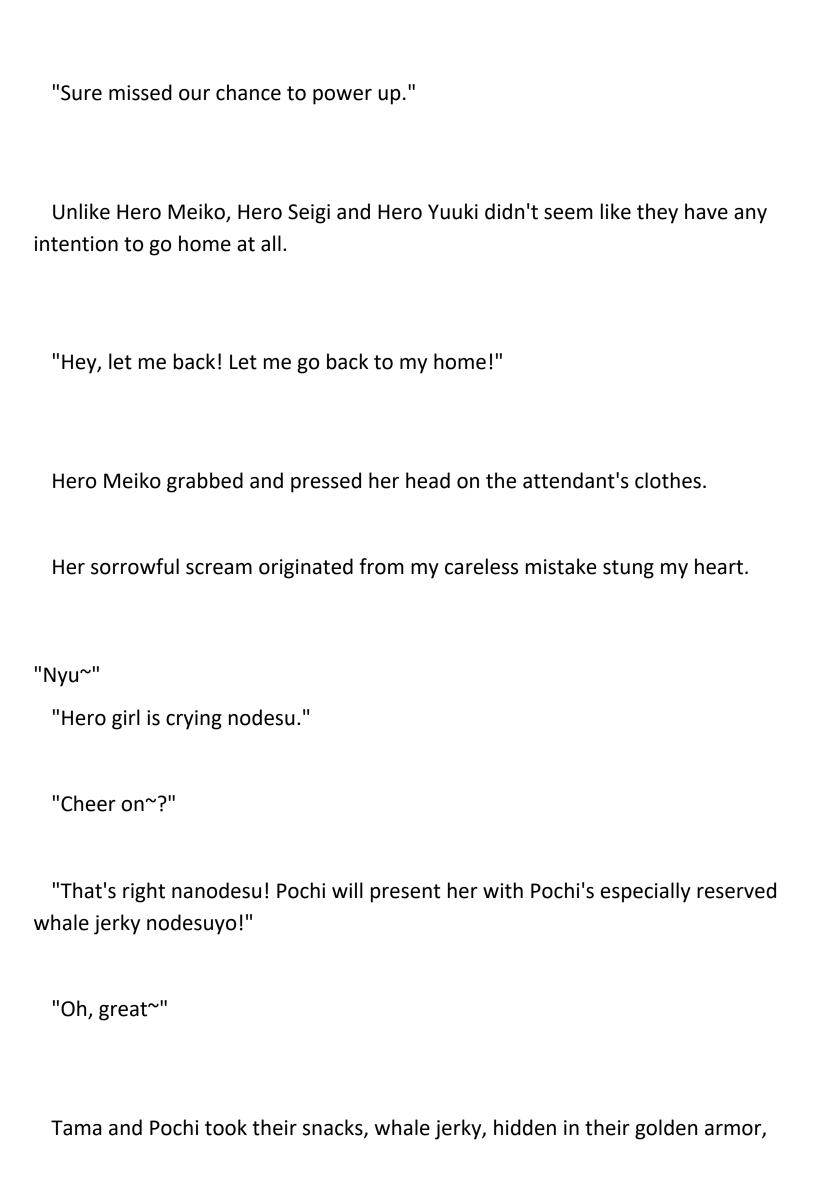
None has gotten the [True Hero] title.

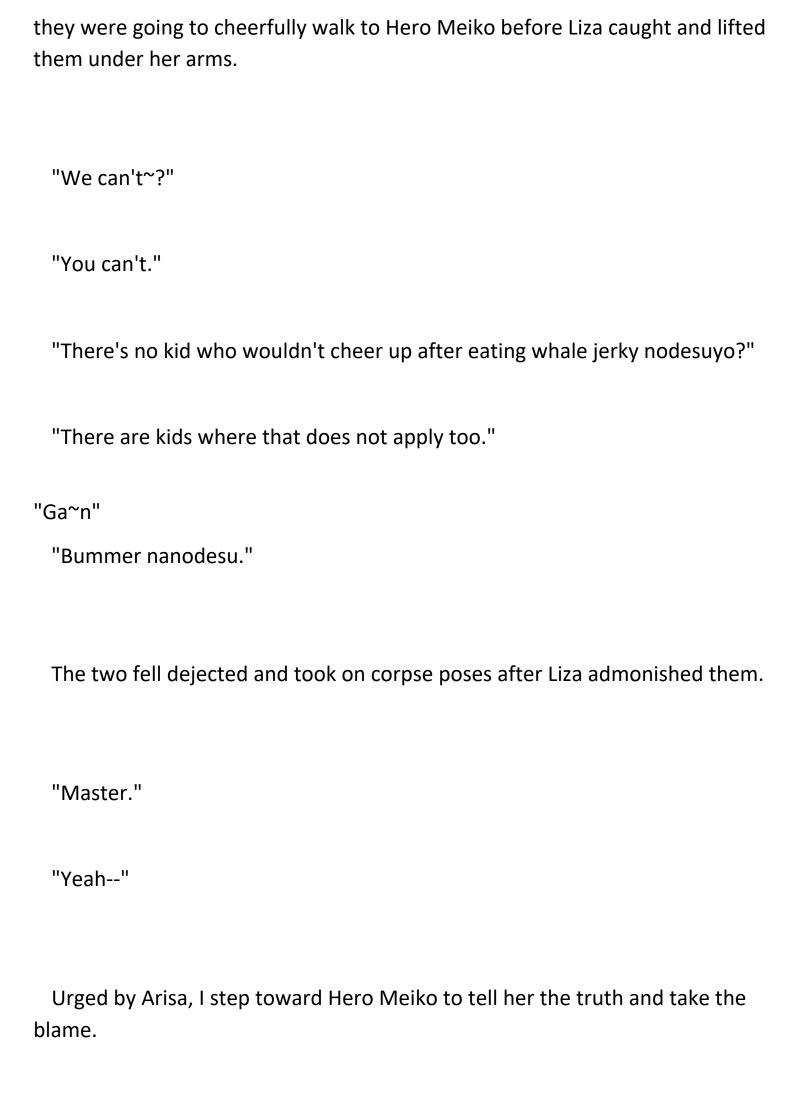
With the pattern so far, a hero who has defeated a demon lord should get [True Hero] title.

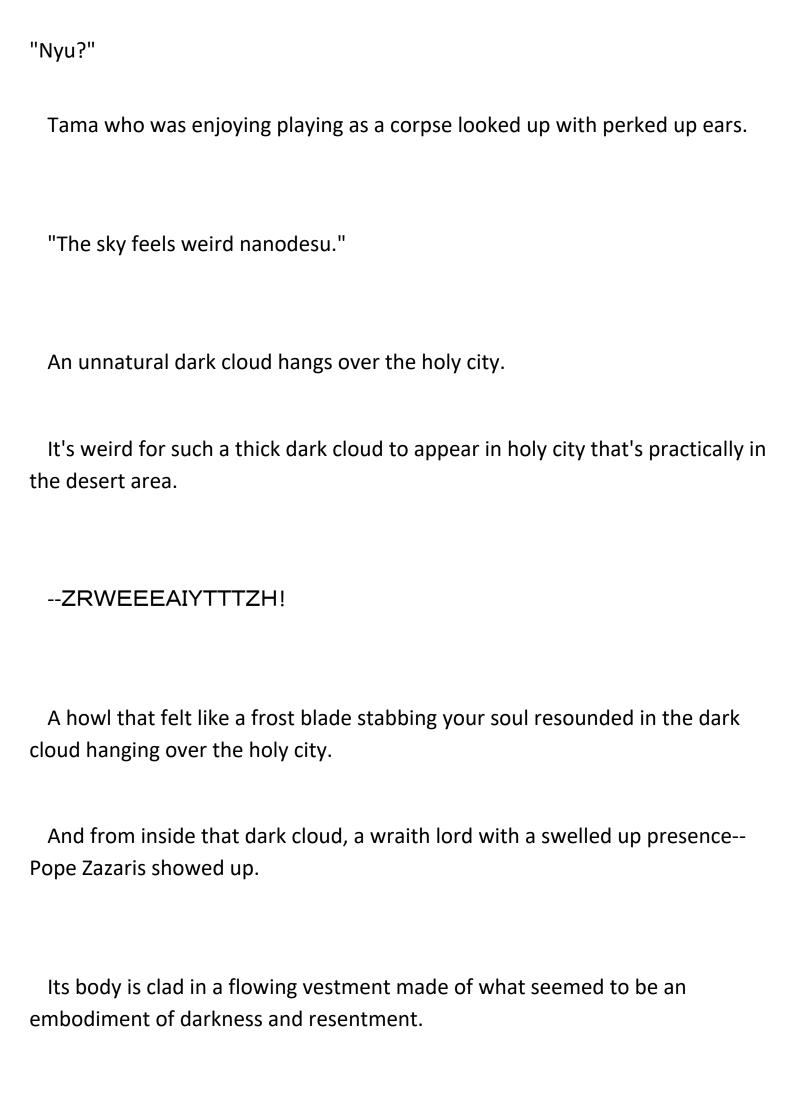
With Hero Hayato, right about now should be the time for lights to descend from heavens wrapping up the heroes, but there's no sign of that happening.

"Maybe the gods can't see what's going on here since we're inside Yuika's barrier."

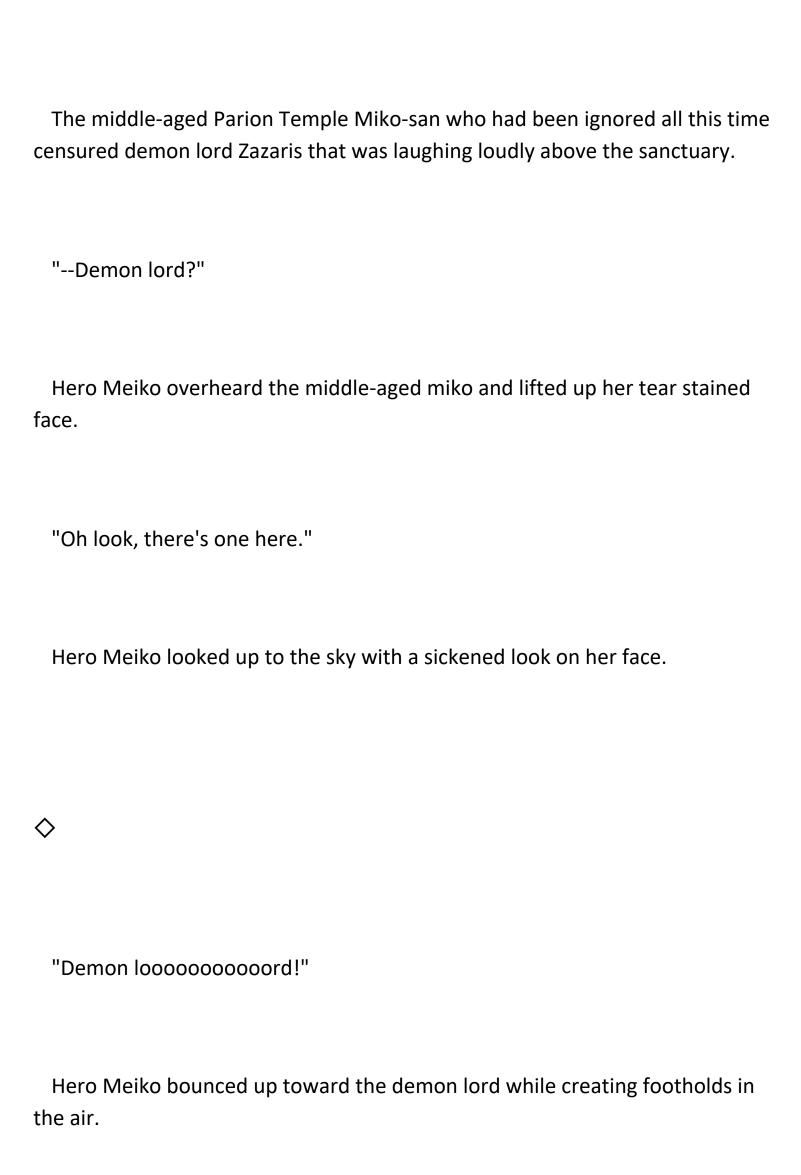


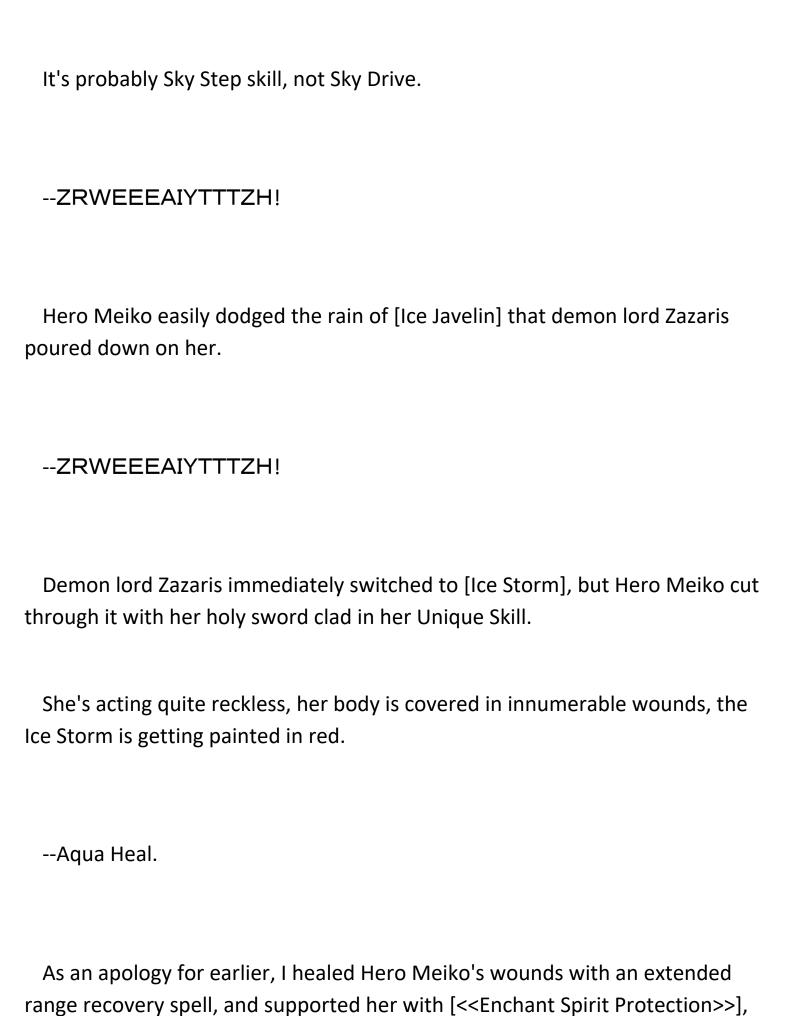












and [<<Enchant Physical>>].



Hero Yuuki with fire magic, Hero Seigi shoots cover fire with a magic gun he snatched from his attendant.

"... = = = <<Sacred Turn Undead>>!"

Silver Knight Holy, aka Sera, unleashed holy magic on demon lord Zazaris, but it gave no real damage besides a miffed scream.

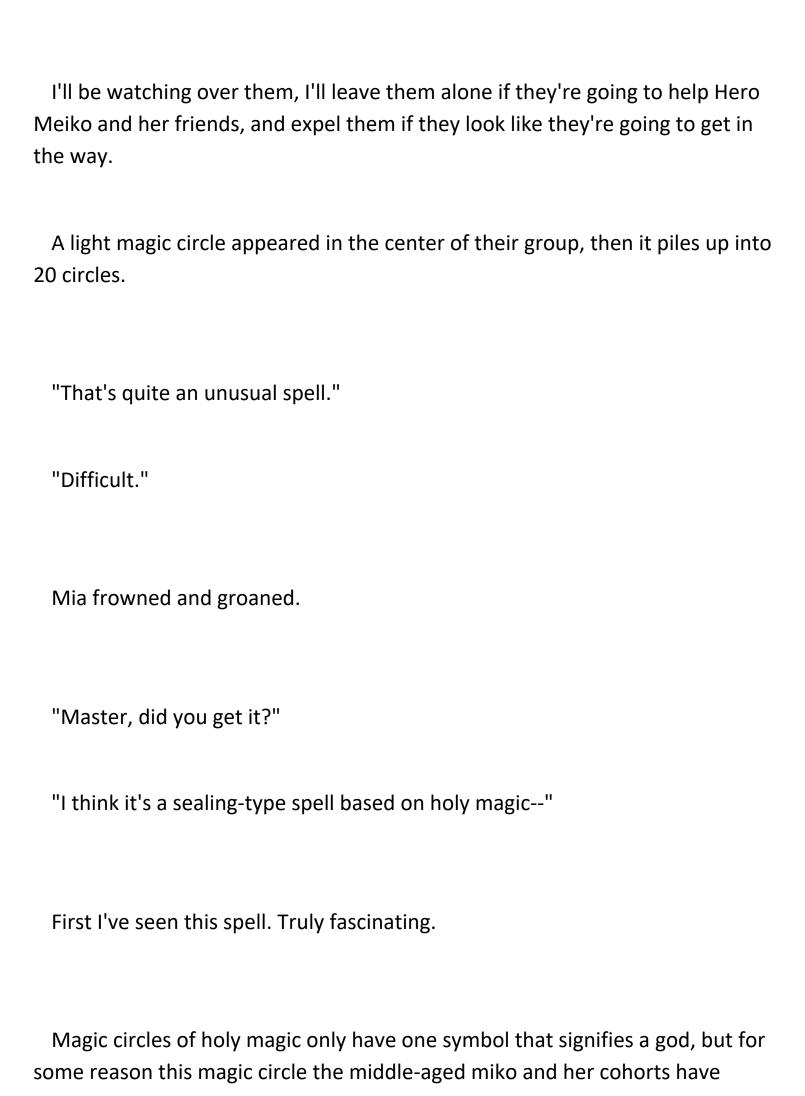
"We will burden the sin of Parion Temple ourselves. Tenion temple personal over there, please refrain from interfering."

The middle-aged miko who saw through Sera's magic to have originated from God Tenion gave a warning to Sera.

"Heroes! Keep that traitor that's turned into a demon lord in check just like that! We shall utilize this chance to seal the demon lord with the miracle brought upon by our artifact!"

The middle-aged miko and her companions took out a rainbow colored orb from Item Box and held it up high.

The main temple personnels who've come along with her put their hands on the orb and pour their mana into it.



created carry eight symbols that signify gods on them.

There's one symbol that looks unlike any of the seven pillar gods' symbols I know.

--ZRWEEEAIYTTTZH!

Demon lord Zazaris noticed the magic circle the miko produced and tried to get away into the Realm of the Dead, thus I got next to the opened portal with Flash Drive and destroyed it.

"This is our prey okay!"

"Yeah, I'm not going to take it from you, do your best."

I snatch away demon lord's mana with [Mana Drain], and destroy the buff magic it's put on itself using [Break Magic].

In addition, to prevent the demon lord from opening another portal to the Realm of the Dead, I fully opened my Spirit Light as well as purified all the miasma in the surroundings. Though I have no proof, these measures should be correct if the knowledge I got from the [Sage's Tower] is correct.

"Good work out there. You're as overprotective as always, master."

Ignoring the amazed-sounding Arisa, I watch over the battle.

"I wanted to fight more, I mean the demon lord came down and all."

"Shut it, Seigi. Just keep shooting!"

Hero Seigi's magic attacks were mostly resisted by the demon lord, but Hero Yuuki's magic attacks dealt enough damage even though they were also resisted.

"RUAAAAAAAAAA!"

Hero Meiko kept up her fierce assault on demon lord Zazaris while furiously emitting blue light.

This demon lord doesn't seem to have battle sense of the former homonculus lich demon lord, it's getting pushed around by Hero Meiko even though it should be higher leveled.

Though apparently, she's still having a hard time to deal as much damage as she wants since she's up against a demon lord that has a naturally high resistance against physical attacks and of higher rank.

"Master, look at the magic circle!"
The rainbow orb the middle-aged miko was carrying floated and dispersed in the air.
Right after the orb dispersed, the magic circles stretched out toward the sky in a cylindrical shape, and once it was twice as high as the altitude where the demon lord was, it began to transform into a more precise sphere.
Incredible.
A great number of spell formations complement each others, forming a powerful seal that cannot be easily undone.
It's quite an artistic spell.
Nothing to worry about since it's not complete yet, but once you're caught inside this seal, magic break-type of magic is useless against it. At least, my own magic won't work.
I memorize the sealing spell formations, thinking I might be able to create

something out of these.
"Goodget back, heroes! Otherwise, you will be caught up in an infinite prison where not even demon god could escape from!"
The middle-aged miko-san proudly shouted.
It is indeed a powerful sealing spell, but the [not even demon god could escape from] is exaggerated.
"This Rainbow Gem of Sealing God is an artifact from the age of gods bestowed to my grandfather, an apostle of Parion-sama, the Yellow Clothed Saint! We were not able to seal the demon lord that showed up in the holy city the other day because of Zazaris's intervention"
The middle-aged miko began to explain about the rainbow orb even though no one asked her.
Or rather
"Yellow Clothed Saint?"

There's probably no mistake about it, it must be the yellow bodied demon-the senior greater demon I defeated at the Duchy Capital.

And suddenly, this [Rainbow Gem of Sealing God] thing gets more suspicious manyfold.

"Shut up! This one's our prey! I'm not gonna hand it over to anyone!"

"Then, be sealed off along with the demon lord."

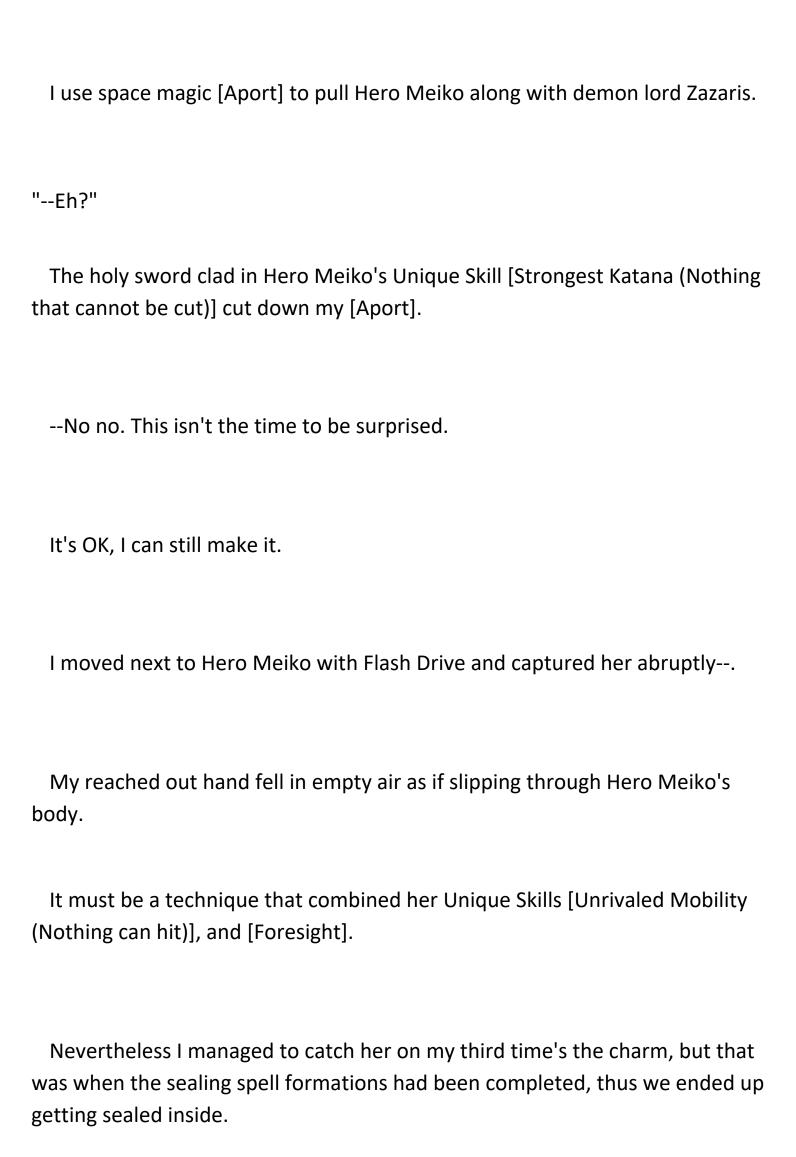
The middle-aged miko gave her last warning to Hero Meiko who refused to stop fighting the demon lord.

"Master, shouldn't we stop the sealing artifact, we've got to save Meiko--"

"Ah, yeah you're right."

I got too absorbed in memorizing the sealing spell formations, I forgot about it.

But it's okay. There's still a few seconds remaining before the sealing spell is completely activated.







Hero Meiko rapidly slashed at the spell formations while screaming her lungs out, but it's a perfect sealing barrier formations that flawlessly complements each other.

That [not even demon god could escape from] the middle-aged miko boasted might not have just been a mere bravado.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



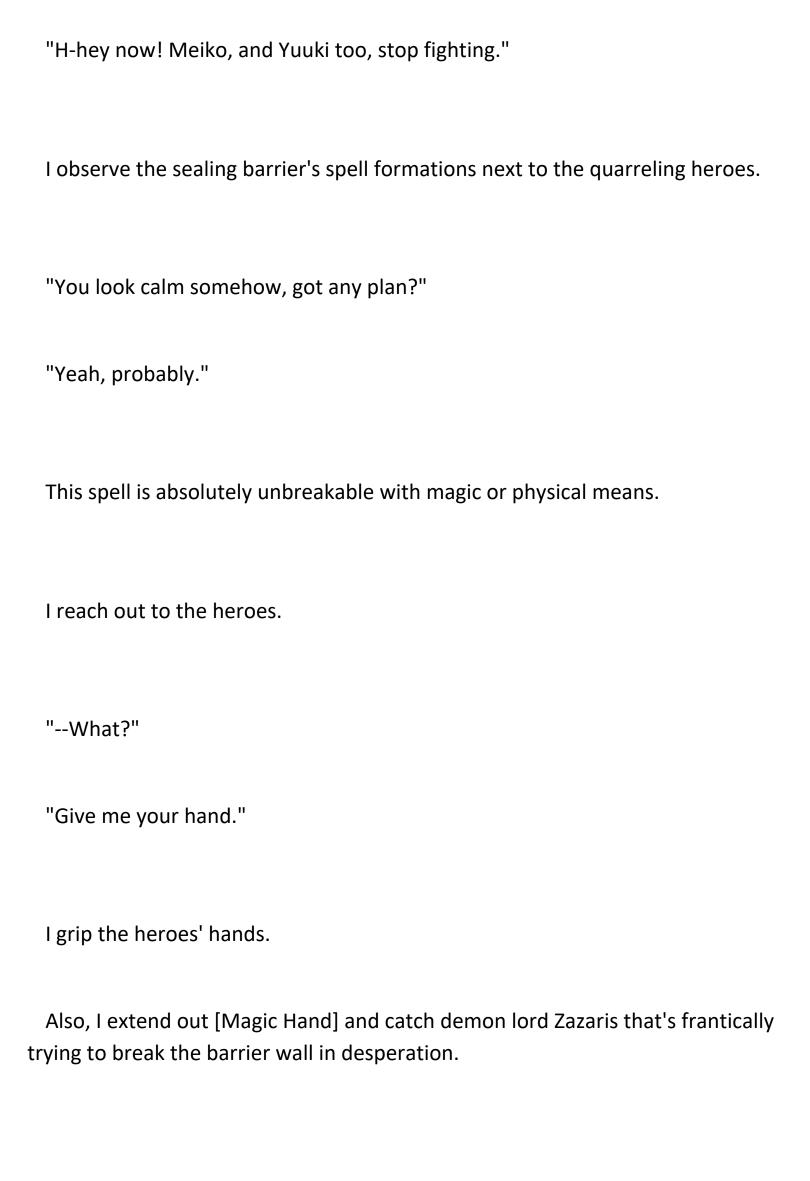
"So, you can get out of here, can't you?"

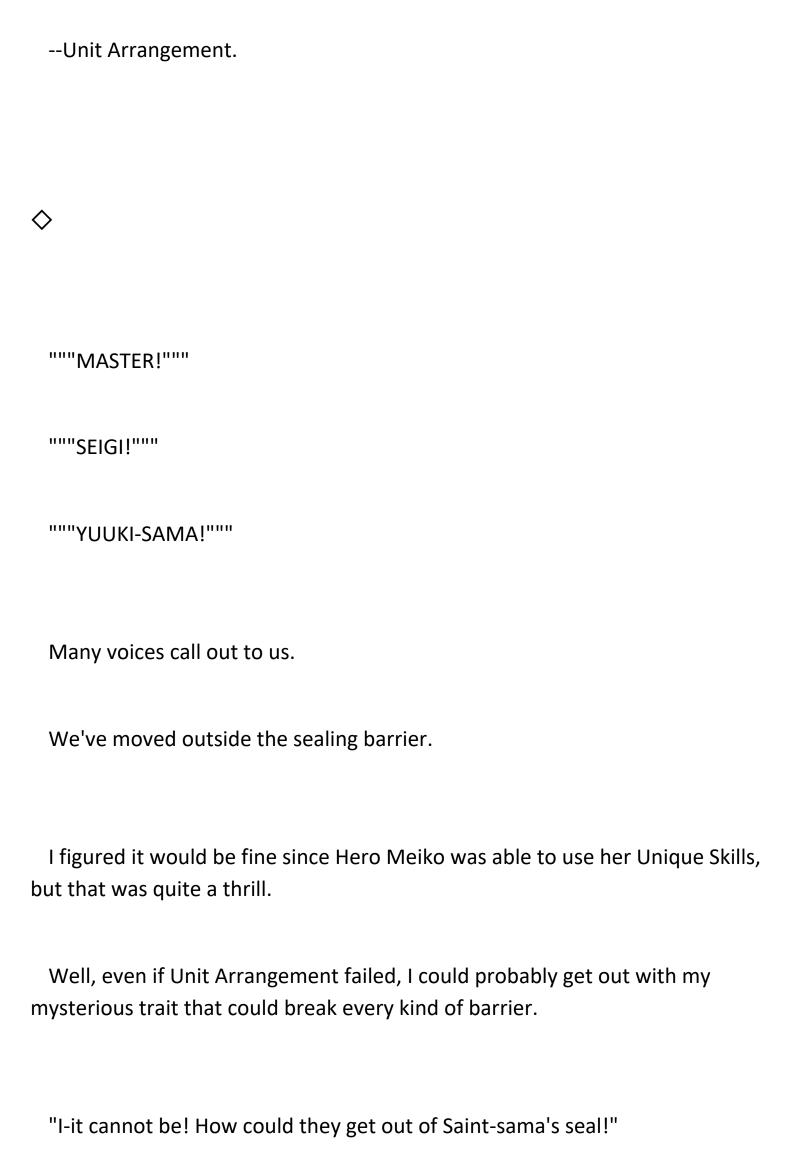
Hero Meiko glared at me while breathing heavily.

"I've tried several kinds of magic to break this seal, but simply breaking it resulted in the hole getting quickly restored, it's no good. Of course, teleportation is useless here either."

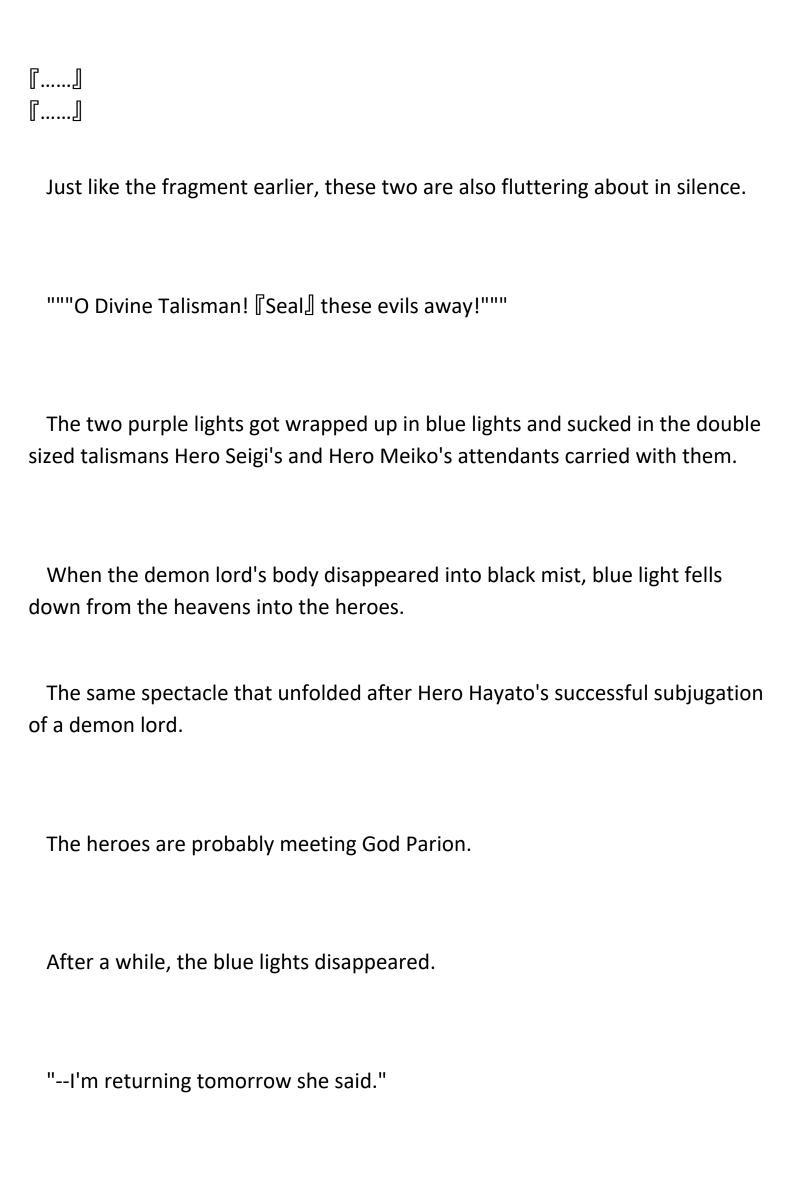
I can't get out of this sealing barrier with teleport magic or ninjutsu, even Arisa's familiar link has been severed.

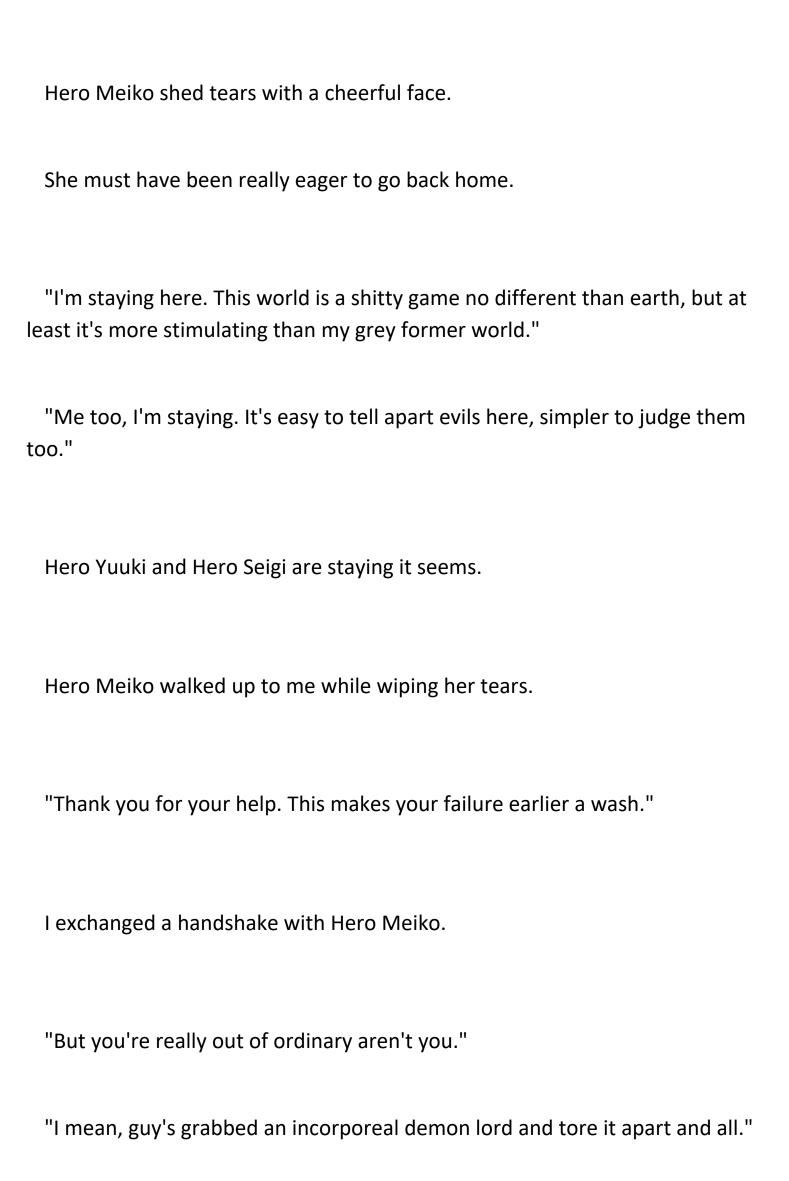






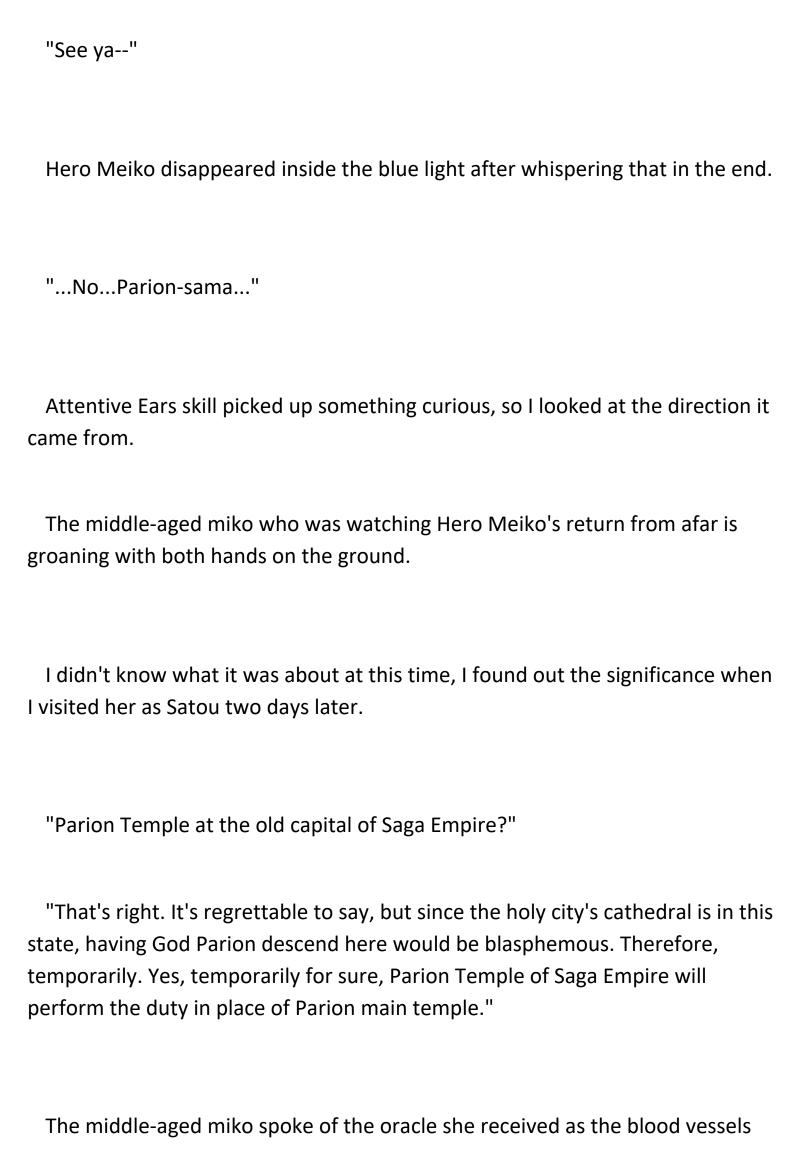












on her head looked like they were about to burst.

I donated a sensible amount of money to the miko who had done a good job conveying the message, "Hope this help with the restoration."

"What's the matter Master? You've got this somewhat unsatisfied look on your face y'know."

I think the middle-aged miko received the message when Hero Meiko was leaving, but I didn't feel any kind of divine presence from the miko back then.

Well the volume of divinity was thick at the time of Hero Meiko leaving, I might have just missed it because of that.

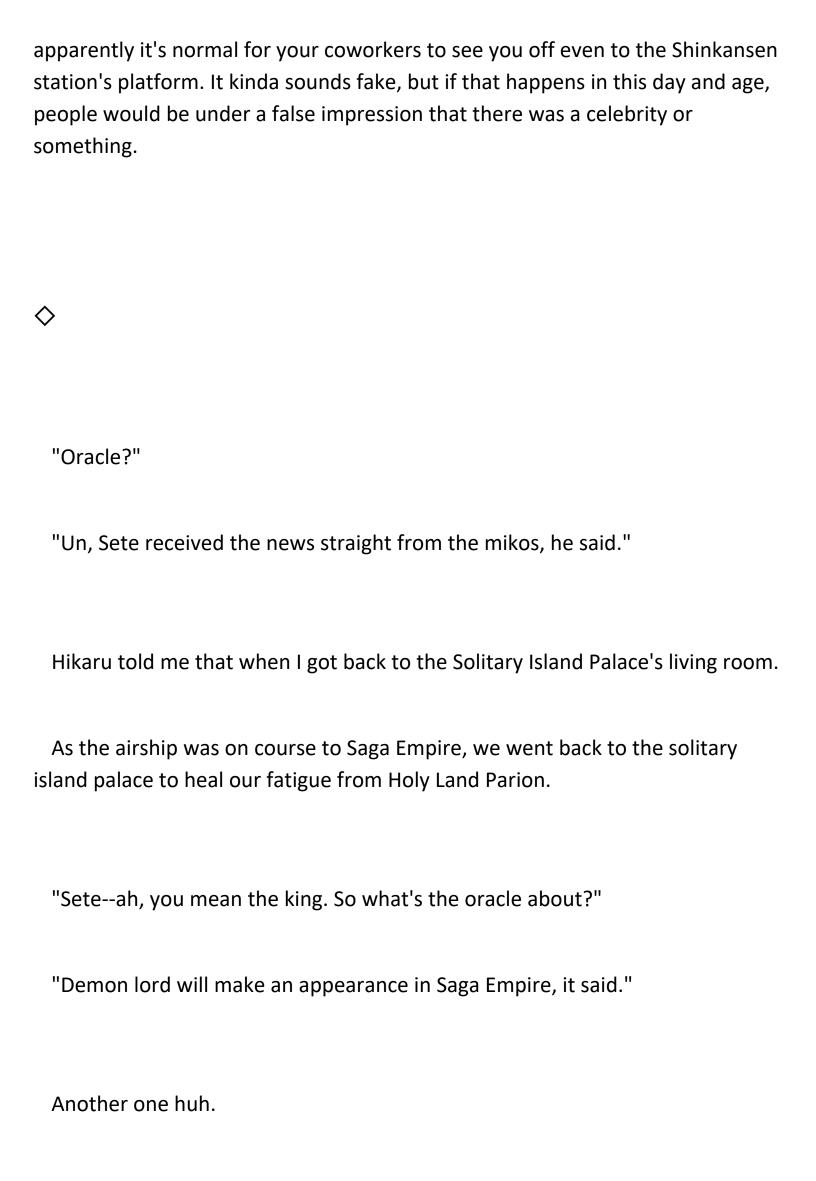
"Nah, it's nothing."

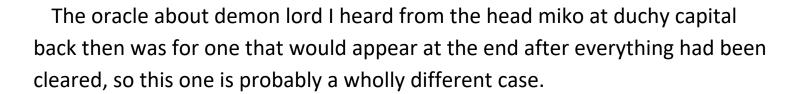
"Alright then. But if you have any worries, Arisa-chan is here to hear you out-of course, she also warmly welcomes night crawling--"

I whacked Arisa on the head as she started to babble some ridiculous stuff, and then I changed the airship course toward Saga Empire.

16-66. To Saga Empire (1)

Satou here. In my father and grandfather's eras, when you're transferring job





"Are there no oracles regarding Parion Holy Land?"

"Un, I tried asking them about it, they asked me back instead, 'what makes you ask that' they said."

Fumu, did the manifestation of homonculus demon lord came as a surprise for gods as well, or maybe other gods besides god Parion wouldn't impart their oracle because it happened in Parion Main Temple's site, a bit intriguing.

As Parion Holy Land's populace seemed to have incurred the displeasure of god Parion, didn't seem like god Parion imparted an oracle to them.

"Lemme take a glance there."

After saying that, I got to Saga Empire with Unit Arrangement, and went around updating Map info in every part of the empire.

No demon lord was caught on my Map as of now.

At the Saga Empire's old capital--the place where Parion Holy Land's miko told me to go, I found a homonculus who possessed Unique Skills.

It reeked of Canary in a Coal Mine-type of trap somewhat, therefore I simply put a marker on the homonculus without directly going to see it.

After I'm done with all the necessary checks, I make my way back to the Solitary Island Palace.



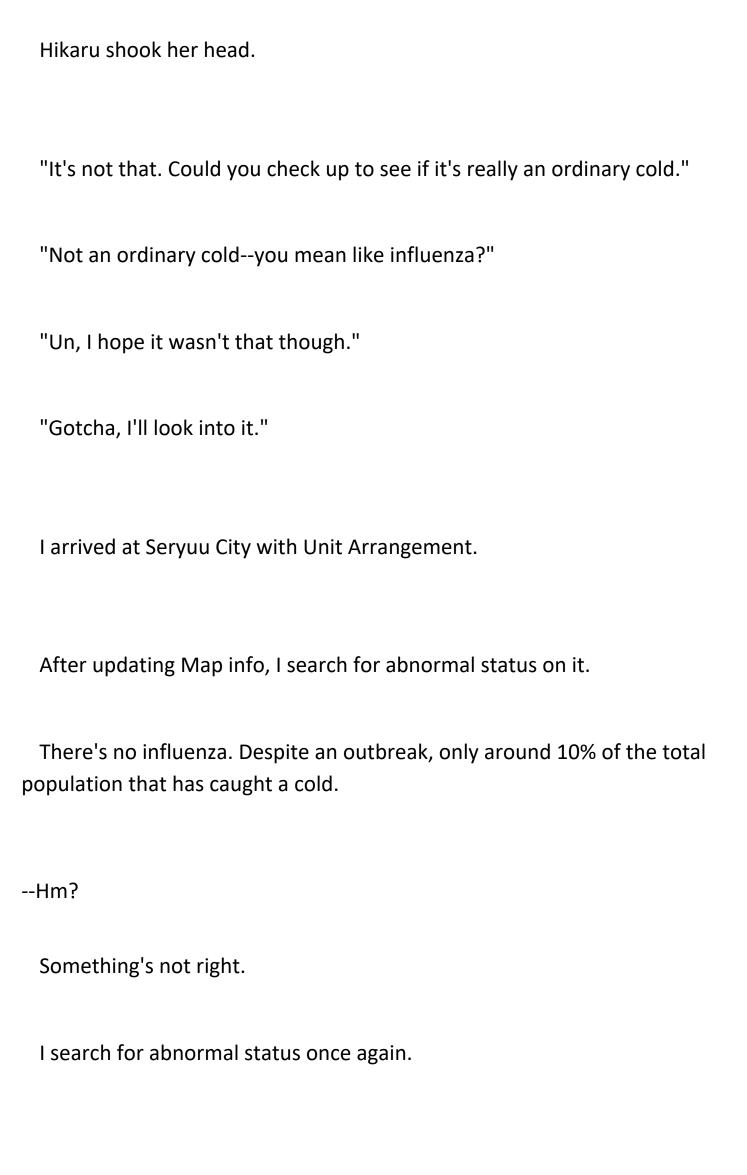
"How was it?"

"There's no demon lord present for the time being."

After reporting to Hikaru, I told her about the homonculus with Unique Skills.

The other girls are currently taking a bath it seems, I'll tell them later.





70% of the total population here are suffering from abnormal statuses.

They're suffering from physiological diseases unique to this world such as regretful syndrome, impatient syndrome, and rage syndrome.

As these diseases were unfamiliar to me, I looked them up and found out that these are peculiar diseases that are transmitted to people when their bodies are weak due to cold and such via certain undead like Banshee and Fury Ghosts.

Furthermore, every one of these diseases has been hidden like [Regretful Syndrome: Concealed], thus normal appraisal skill cannot be used to distinguish them, and so the locals are led to believe that the outbreak is just for an ordinary cold.

Or perhaps, there really was an outbreak of cold, and they were contracted to these diseases during that time.

These illnesses are not that serious though.

If you catch Regretful Syndrome, you'll be all fidgety and restless as you shut yourself in a room, Impatient Syndrome makes you constantly anxious and never be calm. With Rage Syndrome, you get to be irritated all the time, it makes you want to hit things around you.

Those contracted with these diseases will naturally recover fully in five to 10

days time once their condition has improved, there's no specific treatment for these.

I'm not sure whether advanced holy magic [Purification Virus] would have any effect on it, but it's customary to use mid class holy magic [Remove Disease] and water magic [Cure Disease] on those suffering from these diseases, and magic medicines like elixirs should be able to fully cure them.

I don't think I need to worry about this, but since the sources of infection are undead, I should inform Seryuu City's authority at least.

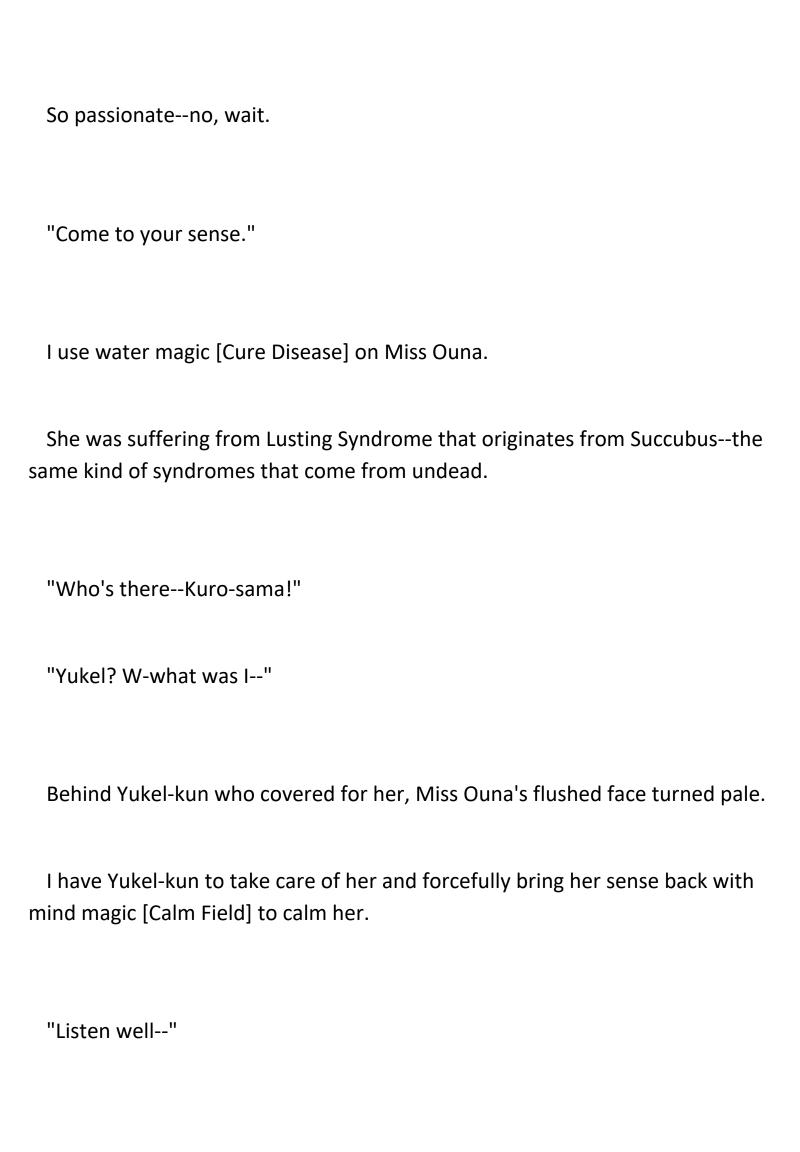
As I'm not too thrilled at the prospect of meeting Earl Seryuu, I'll ask his daughter, Miss Ouna, to deliver a message instead.

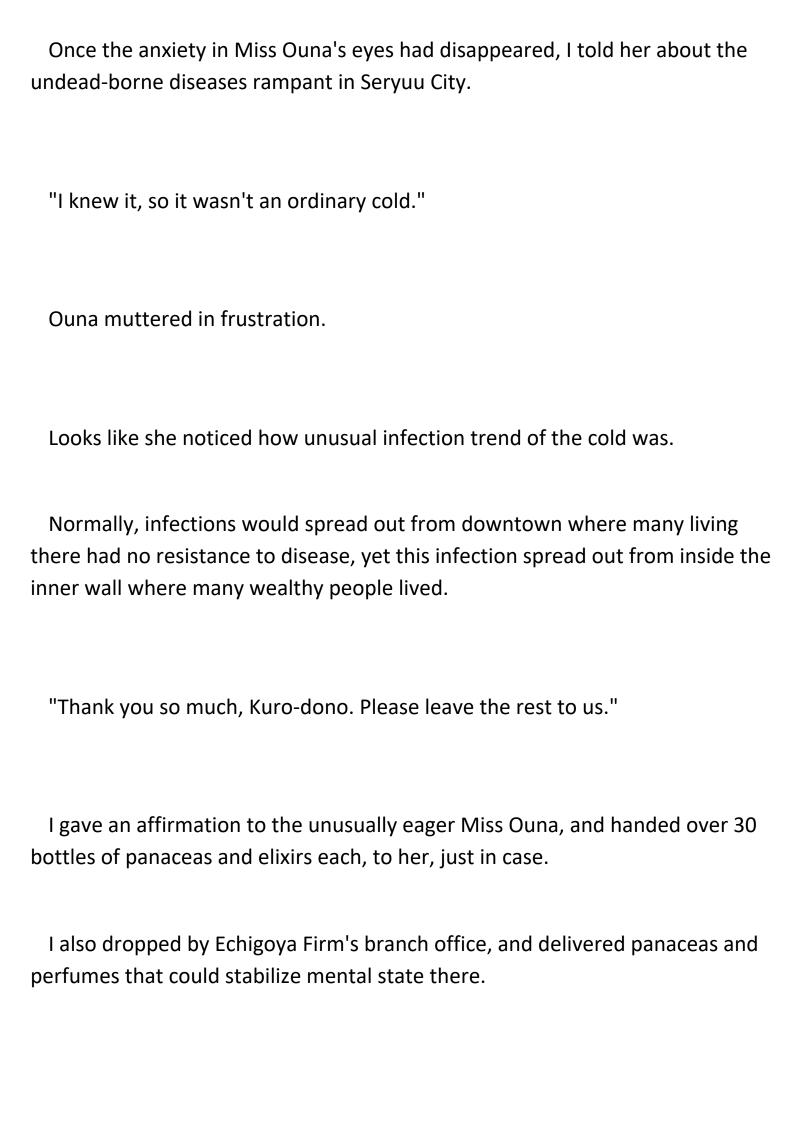
The fact that Miss Ouna is inside the room of her fiance, Yukel-kun, Zena-san's little brother, is intriguing but as I don't think they'd do a premarital intercourse when the sun is still high in the sky, I let myself in after changing into Kuro.

"Yukel."

"O-ouna-sama, we can't! We're still--"

At the destination of my teleportation, a scene of Miss Ouna pushing down Yukel-kun was playing before me.







"Satou, how was it?"

As everyone had finished with their bath and gathered here, Hikaru called me with my alias.

"It really wasn't a normal cold."

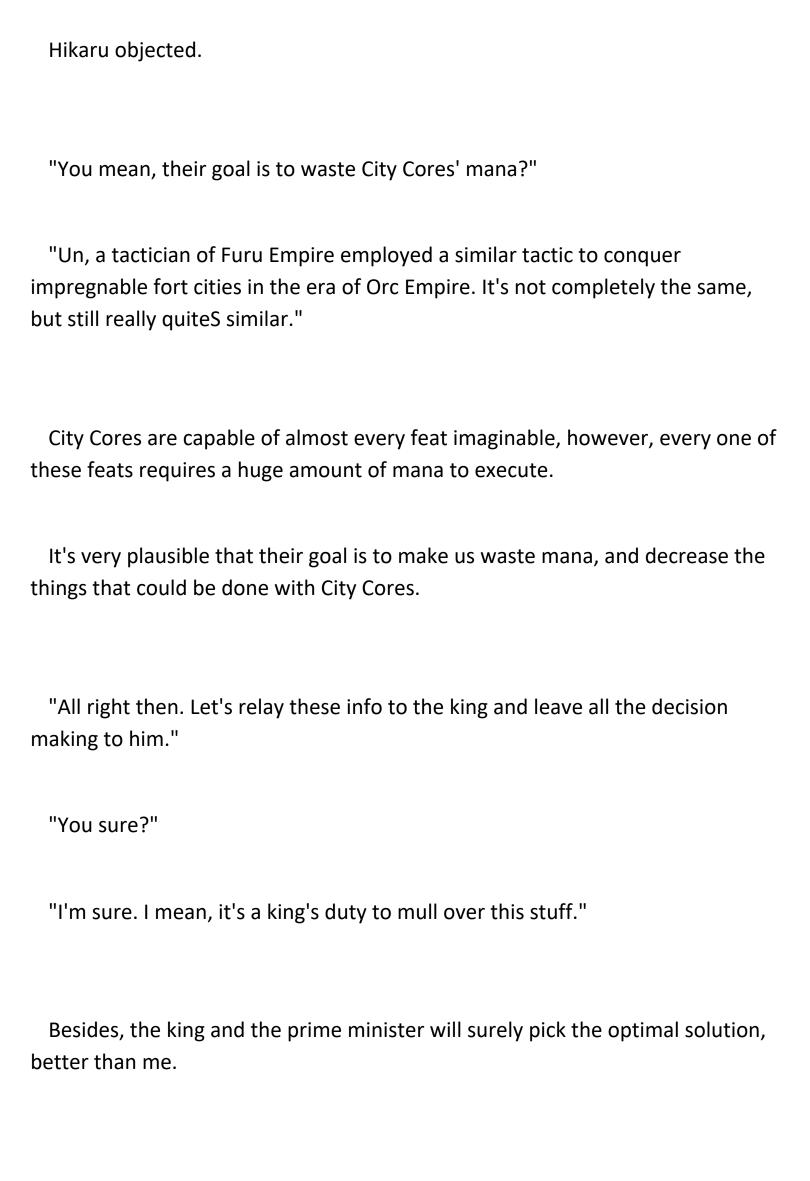
I told Hikaru and the girls about my experience.

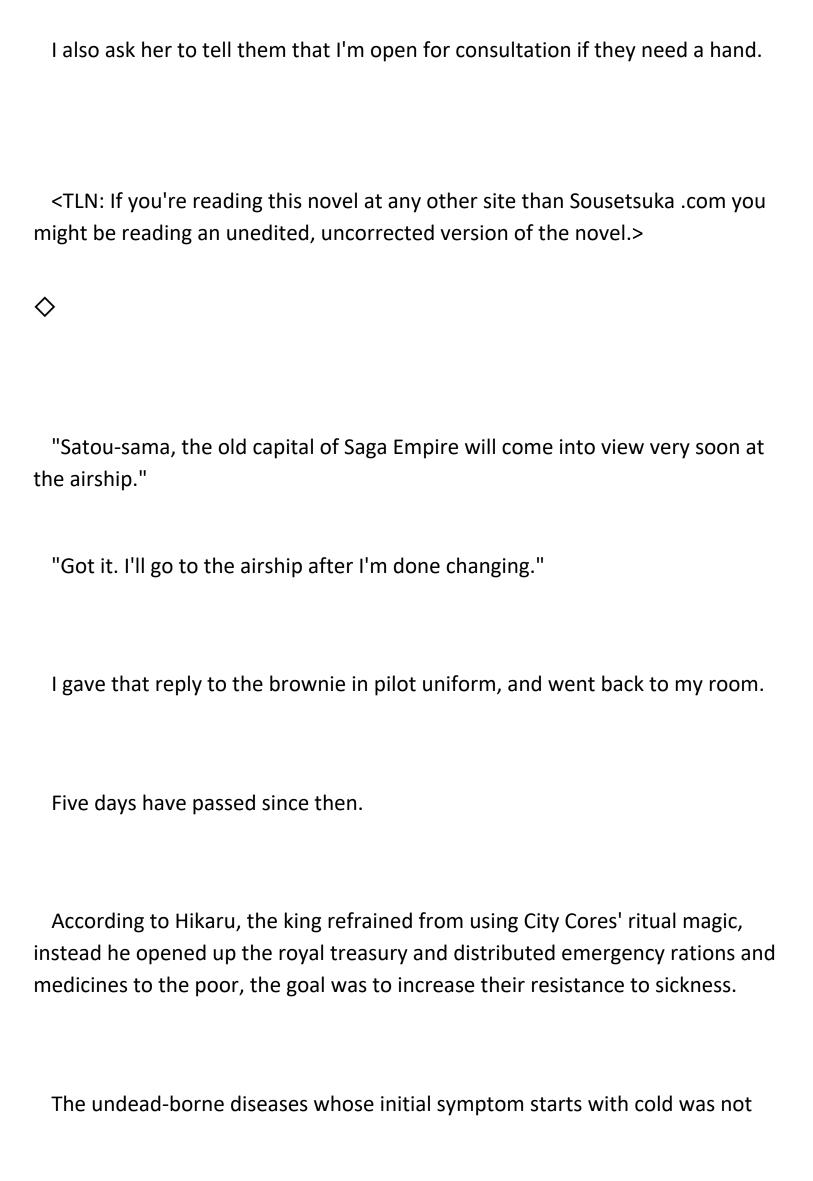
Besides Seryuu City and the duchy capital, the diseases are also spreading in Muno city and Brighton city that I administer.

Symptoms are also appearing in the royal capital and the labyrinth city, though it hasn't spread yet in these cases.

Since Brighton City had some excess mana, I visited the City Core room and activated a ritual magic that seemed like it could help the citizens coping with the disease. It consumes a lot of mana relative to its effect that apparently only helps to relieve, but it's better than letting the mana overflow.

It might have been a coincidence if it only happened in Seryuu City, but when it's happening simultaneously in many places, high chance someone is acting secretly behind the scene here.
"Hey, it's definitely that mastermind guy who's behind this."
"Yeah, I've considered that myself, but don't you think their objective here is too haphazard compared to the vampire transformation?"
I replied with that to Arisa's retort.
"Maybe he's leading us to think [they won't do something that has no meaning.]"
Sounds plausible.
"Master, how about you inform them about that stuff you did in Brighton, and let other cities do it too?"
"Hold on, that may be precisely what our opponent wanted."





restricted to Shiga Kingdom, it spread in the whole world.

It was obviously a man-made phenomenon, but the people behind it were quite cunning, only a few cities, including Eluett Duchy capital and Bishtal Duchy capital managed to deal with it before the diseases spread.

As for oracle about demon lord, there's nothing new past the initial one.

Through Hikaru, Emperor's sister Maryest, and princess Trimenus who were staying at the Royal Capital unofficially requested me to defeat the demon lord at Saga Empire. There was also a suggestion from Lady Ringrande at the duchy capital, she wanted to assist me in the demon lord's subjugation, but I politely declined her offer.

"Master, here's your ceremonial clothes."

"Thanks, Lulu."

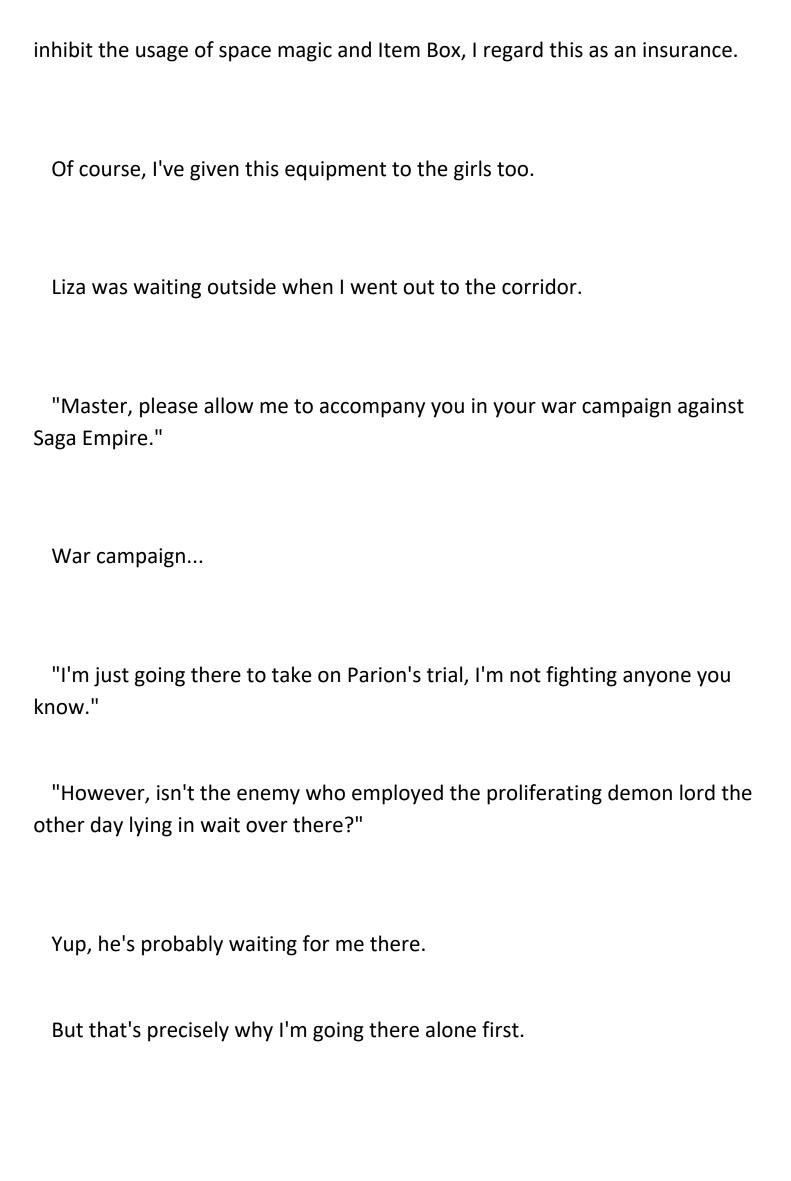
I took the ceremonial clothes Lulu fetched from the dressing room.

"Allow me to help."

Arisa in maid uniform smoothly and naturally moved in and reached out to me.



I think my Storage would still be usable anyway, but since there are ways to



"Am I still of no use to Master?"
She looks feeble, you would never imagine she's the same person who stands fast before her enemy with spear in hands.
"You've always been a huge help to me, Liza."
What came out of my mouth was apparently not what she wanted to hear, her gaze that was facing me turned down.
"Liza"
I put my hand on Liza's chin and lift it up.
"The reason why I asked you to stay behind is not because I don't rely on you."
In fact, she has proved herself capable of defeating even demon lords at the Phantasmal Labyrinth and Parion Holy Land.
The only foes the girls cannot handle right now are exceptional cases like the

great demon lords, say, Dog-head and Wild Boar King.

They could even deal damage to gods if they took them by surprise, as Arisa had demonstrated.

"I cannot predict what our opponent this time has in mind. I don't know what kind of tricks waiting for me there, so I'm counting on you Liza, and Arisa to guard my back."

Liza stares at me.

Looks like she's ascertaining whether I'm telling the truth or if it's just consolation words.

"Would you come to help me if I fell into a trap and got myself in trouble?"

"...Yes, Master, I will come to your aid even if it costs me this life!"

Liza hesitated for a bit before giving her consent with a powerful voice.









Core Two handed over several cursed-looking dolls.

This main core she mentioned is the Dungeon Core of Phantasmal Labyrinth where I preside over as Dungeon Master.

These [Scapegoat Dolls] aren't like the item often seen in games that would [void death], but it's a high level body-double item whose functionality is similar to [Physical Mirror Image] installed on Pochi's golden armor.

It's not like I absolutely need it, but they're disposable items anyway, so I requested some thinking they might come in handy.

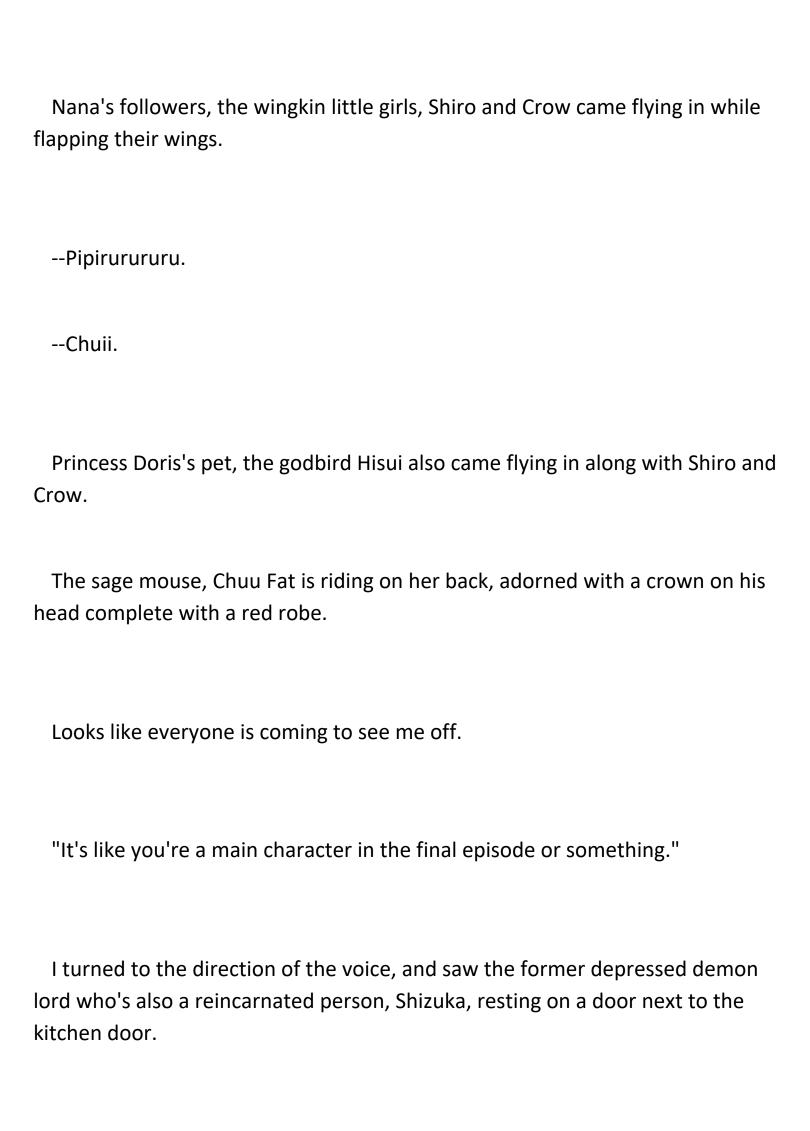
"Thanks to the Evil Philosophy, we've got an abundant of soul points and miasma points, so please don't hesitate to ask if master needs anything, said main core."

"Thank you, Core Two."

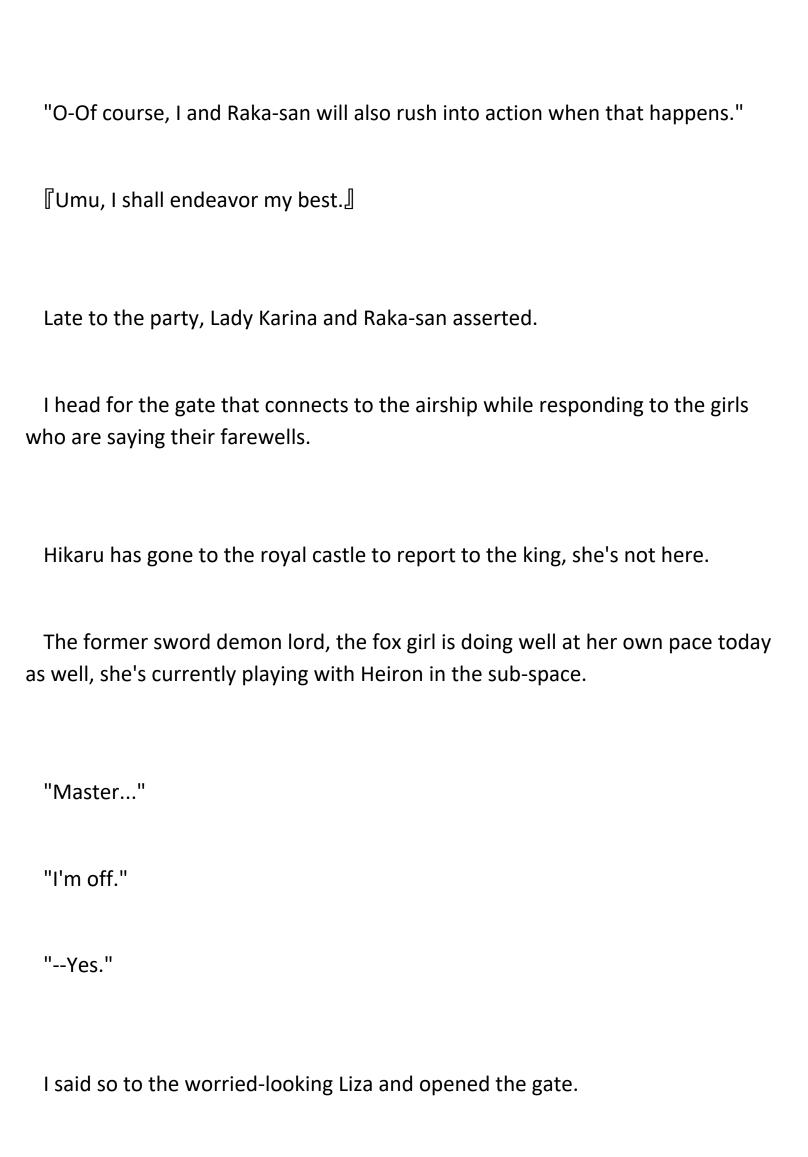
I gave the Evil Philosophy to Phantasmal Labyrinth's Dungeon Core intending it to be a miasma supply as I didn't have any other use for it anyway.

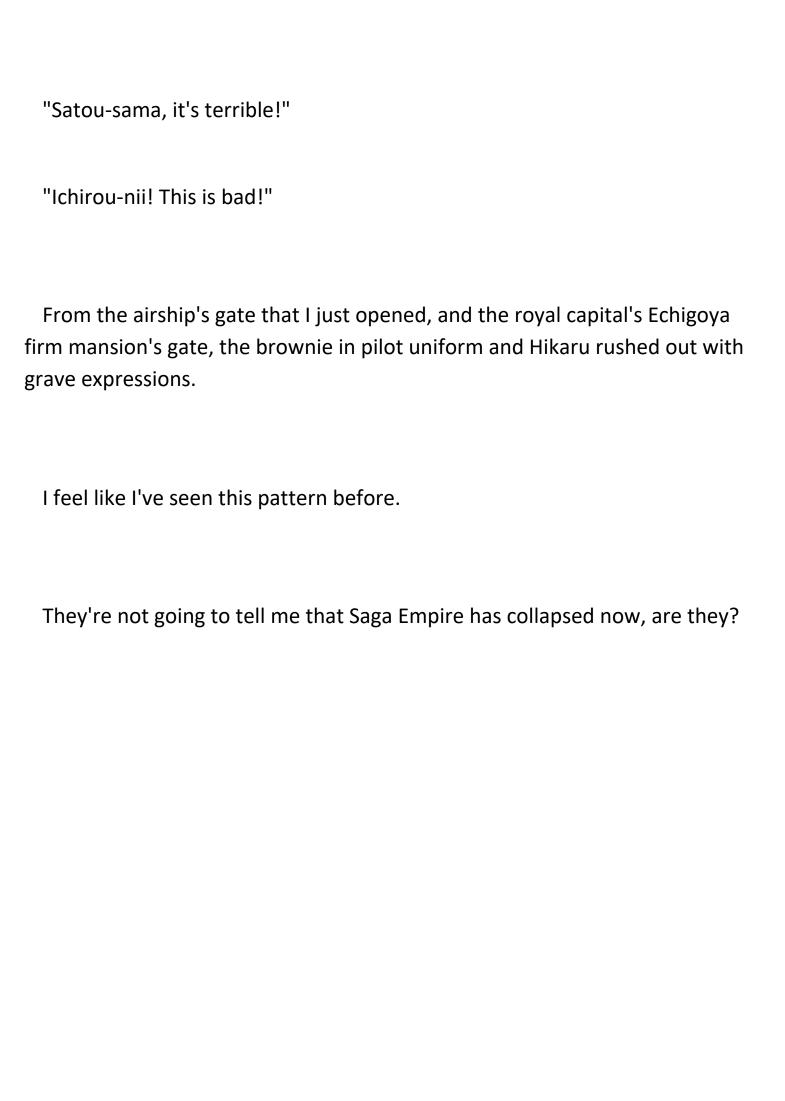
The fact that it supplied soul points on top of miasma points is a fortunate miscalculation.

""Masitaa""



"Mito told me about it, you're dealing with demon lords again right? I'll be staying here in the meantime, feel free to call if you need me."
Looks like she came here from the sub-space she shut herself in to perform her role in separating [God's Fragment] from demon lords.
"Thanks, that will really help."
"Please, no need for that. I've been sponging off you after all, think of it as me paying back my debt."
Shizuka turned away without a blush on her cheek.
She's not covering for embarrassment, looks like she truly thinks that.
"Well then, I'm off."
"If it gets dangerous, contact me immediately through the Familiar~ Line okay?"
"I will definitely come for you together with Arisa-chan and the girls!"
Arisa and Zena-san cheerfully declared such.





16-67. To Saga Empire (2)

Satou here. I remember reading the line [International General Practice is to never make a deal with terrorists] from a manga.

Fortunately, I have never been in such a situation, but even if I find myself in one, I'm confident that I won't take the optimal action. I'd love to throw all the responsibility to the bigwigs running the country.



"A demon lord has shown up at Saga Empire's capital!"

"Saga Empire's old capital has been totally engulfed in flames!"

Hikaru and the pilot-uniformed brownie both shouted together.

My fear that [Saga Empire has collapsed] was unfounded, but this is still quite a situation we have here.

"A demon lord and fires in an entire city huh--"

The mastermind probably has initiated their schemes. "Master, let us take care of the demon lord! We're gonna tear through this super obvious decoy!" "Satou, I'm going with Arisa and the girls this time. I've asked Ten-chan to protect the royal capital." Indeed, saving a whole city that has been submerged in flames, and people suffering from burn is more suited for my magic. The silver members are going to stand by at Solitary Island Palace as a reserve force. It may be too soon for them to fight a demon lord, but they should be more than a match against a lone greater demon. "I got it. Take care of that side. Focus on defending if the enemy is tougher than you can handle. I'll rush to you at once."

Besides, Saga Empire has been fighting demon lords for generations, surely

they have the personnel, equipment and stuff needed to deal with one.



At first I was wary of them trying to restart their scheme, but videos taken by monitoring drone golems showed the merry-looking plain-faced reincarnated girl gleefully making plans for their honeymoon as tactician Touya reluctantly gave his consent.

However, as the plain-faced reincarnated girl could instantly go anywhere with her teleportation type Unique Skill, the fact that they're showing an act that would alert me like this may be an attempt to divert my attention away from the real thing. The princess and Hikaru seem to agree with my conjecture.

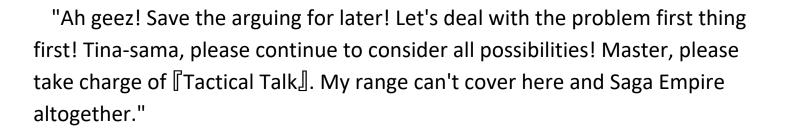
"Is that right... Then, this incident is truly the main event?"

"No, I don't think so."

Normally you'd think they're acting behind the scene to resurrect a demon lord, but if we consider the disposable multiplying demon lord we fought at Parion Holy Land, we can throw away that assumption.

After all, that demon lord was originally a homonculus--an artificially made organism.

There is a possibility of him being a reincarnated person despite being artificially created, but since I didn't sense anything that resembled a will of a reincarnated person from him, he was probably not one.



"Got it."

I activated space magic [Tactical Talk], sent off Arisa and the girls who had changed into their golden armor to the imperial capital, and I myself went to the old capital with Unit Arrangement.

I secretly updated Map of the imperial capital to the latest info behind the girls' back and confirmed that the demon lord that appeared there wouldn't be an opponent Arisa, Hikaru and the girls could not handle.

Since Arisa is connected to me as a familiar, she should inform me if anything unexpected happened.



"These are quite the fires--"

Flames and black smokes are rising from houses to houses, you can't see all of

Saga Empire's old capital even from an airship at a high enough altitude.

My Map informs me that about 90% of the survivors has already taken refuge inside underground shelters in the city.

The remaining 10% above ground consist of knights, soldiers and those who were late to escape.

--That said, there are still hundreds of people who need saving.

There's no way I would make it in time by going around saving them with space magic here.

I considered making a copy of the entire city with [Another World] and took everyone into it like I did during the divine punishment at Weasel Empire, but if I do that, the arsonists in the city will also get taken inside along with the populace.

Though it's not without a bit of risk, I'll erase the flames with a fire extinguish magic intended for large scale fires.

"Mass Area << Extinguish Fire>>--"

After activation of the advanced composite magic, flames that are consuming

the entirety of the old capital suddenly disappear, black smokes are also quickly vanishing.

As it's a magic that extinguish fire by taking oxygen away and lowering temperature, I took those whose lives were in danger--though some were already dying due to the fires--using teleport and Flash Drive, and heal them all with healing magic and magic potions.

--MWOLLLUUUUU.

A rolling flaming monster that looked like a tire jumped over debris and came attacking me.

"<<Shining Blade>>."

A slash of light reminiscence of Hero Hayato split the monster in two, right afterward, a Saga Empire knight in jet black armor showed up.

"You look suspicious--no, I remember that figure. I presume you are Shiga Kingdom's Hero Nanashi. I am--"

"Save the introduction, we should deal with the arsonists first."

"You are exactly right. I shall take my leave here."

I search my Map for arsonists after the sensible knight went away.

Most are [Fire Wheels] monsters like the one earlier, but there are big monsters, [Evil Salamanders] and [Flame Hydras] near the castle in the middle of the city and parion temple, and also lesser demons leading Fire Wheels in front of shelters.

I shot several volleys of [<<Multi Javelin>>] and [Remote Arrows] to annihilate all monsters except those that could be defeated by high level imperial knights and temple knights without them losing anyone.

"Phew, this side should be fine now I think?"

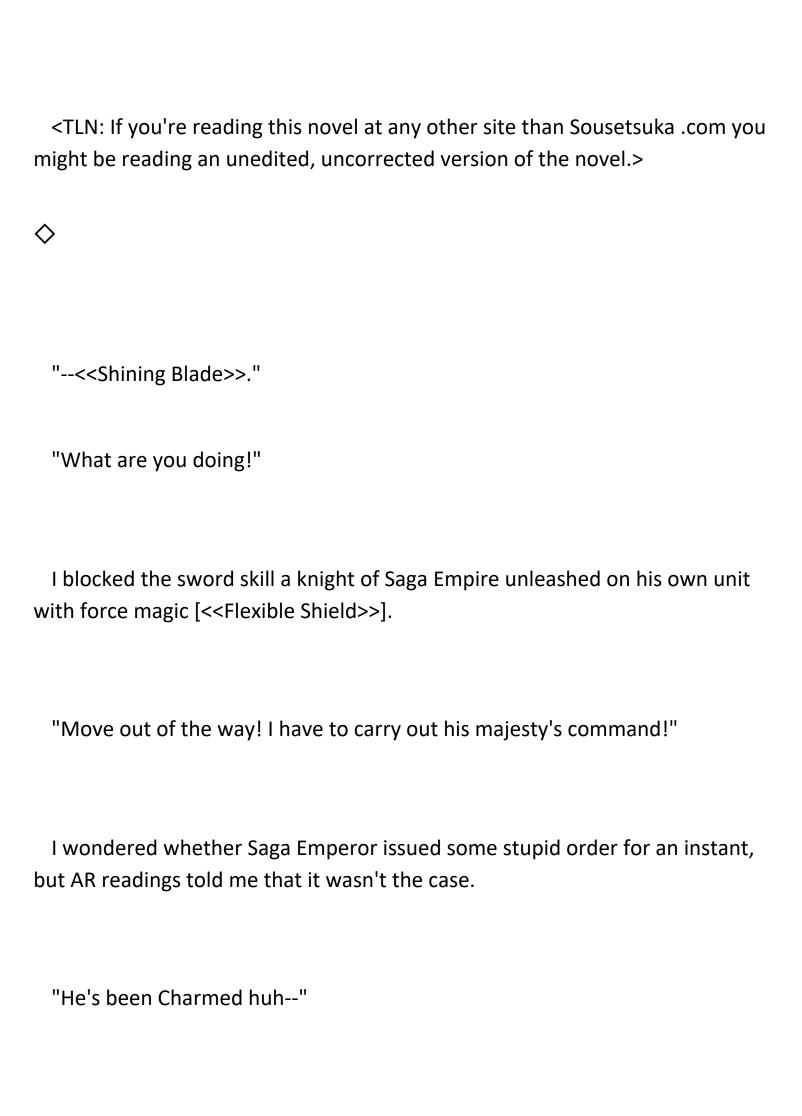
I checked on Arisa and the girls' condition with space magic [Clairvoyance].

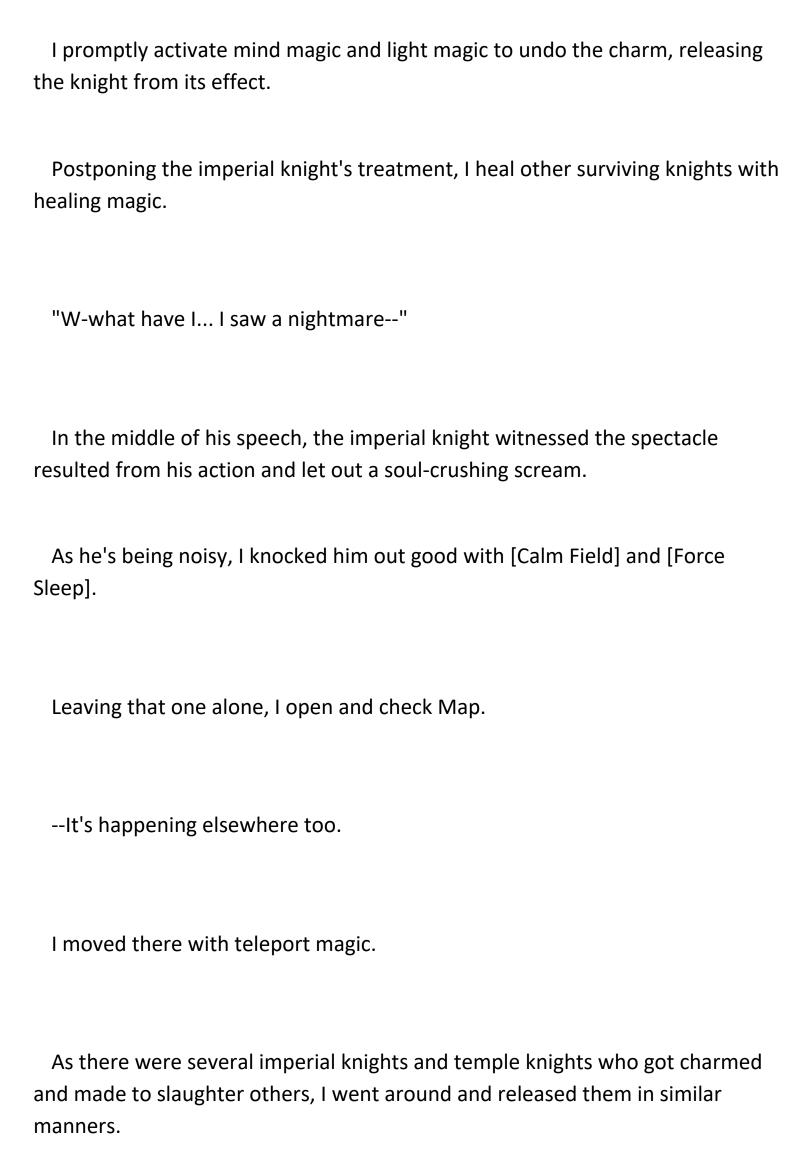
This demon lord seems to be quite a handful, but they're fighting it off safely. Should be no problem leaving that side to Hikaru and the girls.

--Hm?

Light dots that signify Saga Empire's soldiers are rapidly disappearing.

I went there using sight-based Unit Arrangement.





"Srsly, that's some mad skillz ya got there."

After releasing Charm from temple knights who were cutting up high ranking temple priests in Parion Temple's sanctuary, a small man who's hiding his face in a hood--the goblin demon lord showed himself up from behind a pillar.

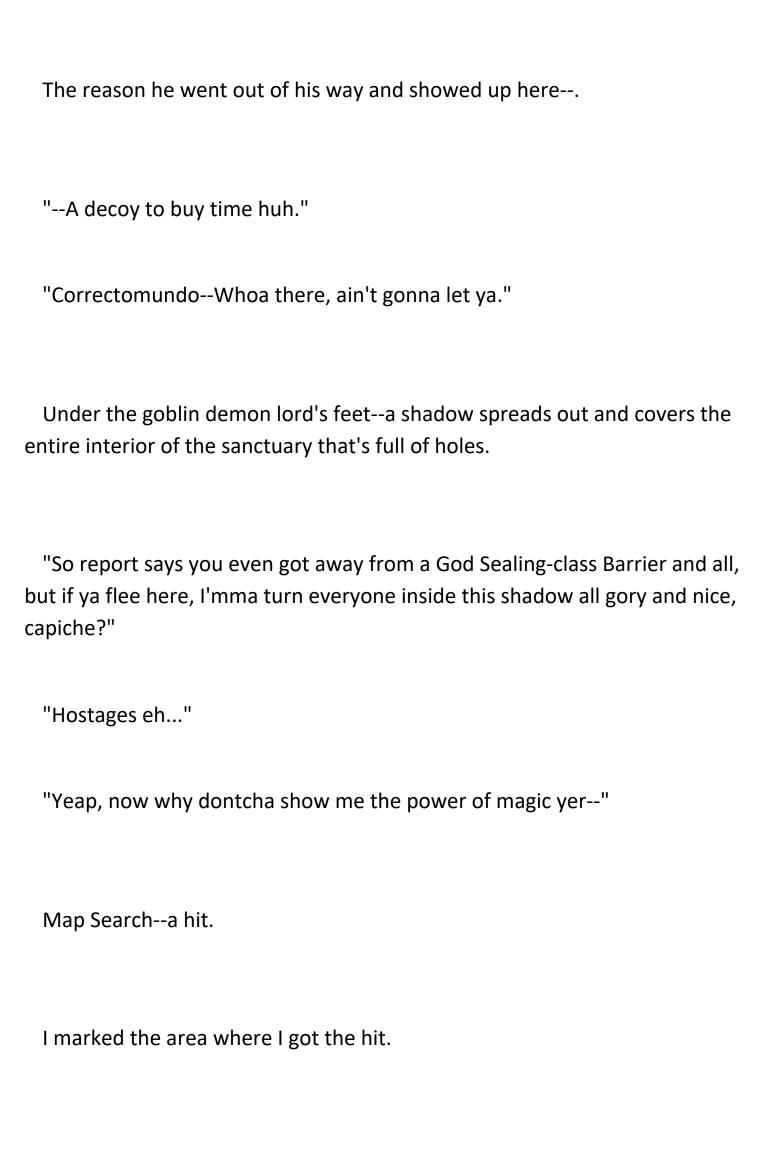
"Another [Avatar] huh--"

"Well yea 'course. Like I'm gonna show my true self when I got no snowball chance in hell defeating you."

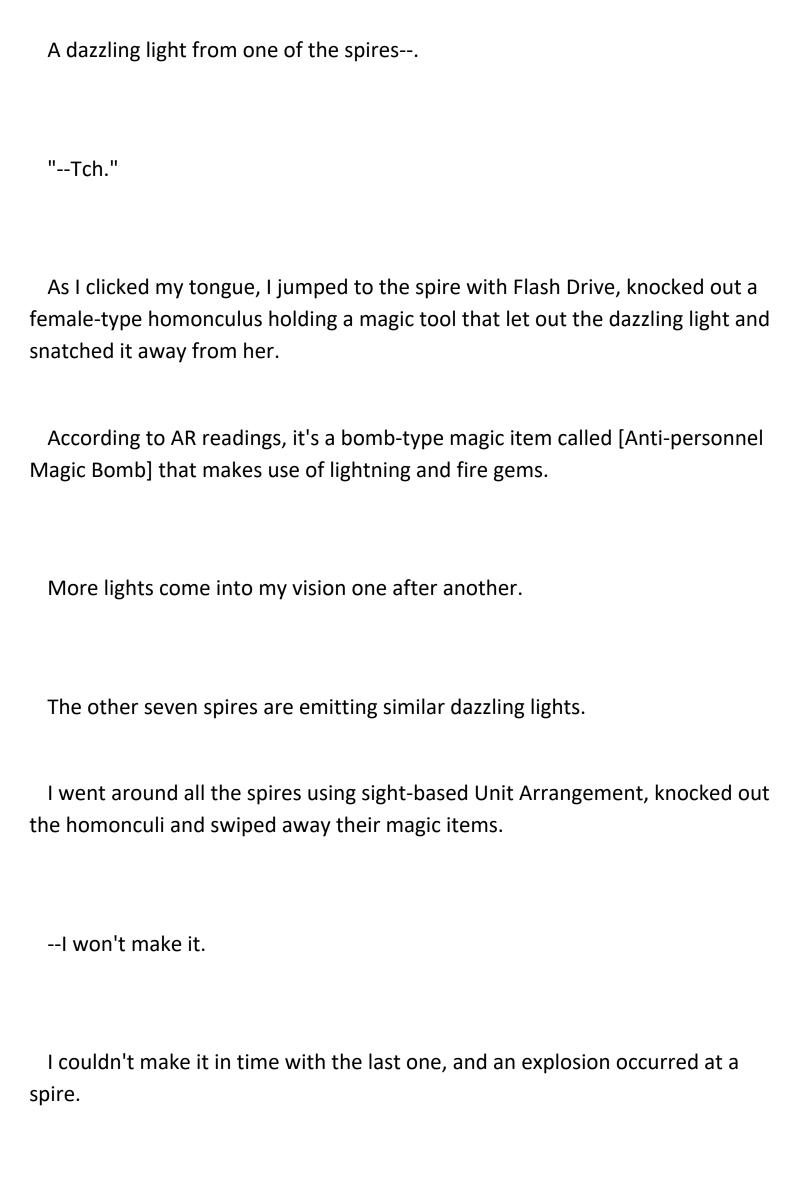
I probe for a mana thread on the avatar that should connect it to the main body.

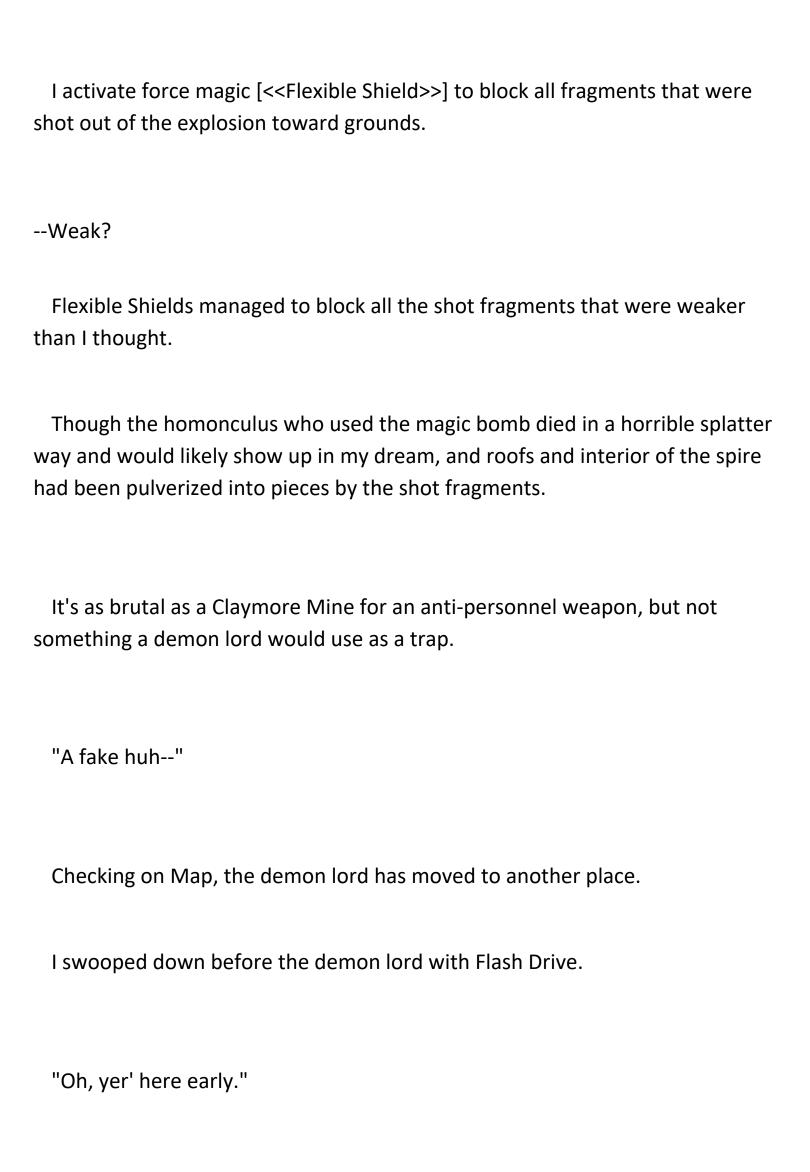
"It's useless, this [Avatar] is an autonomous type--'s what they call, stand alone yeah."

I could only see his mouth, but I know he's making a triumphant face inside the hood.



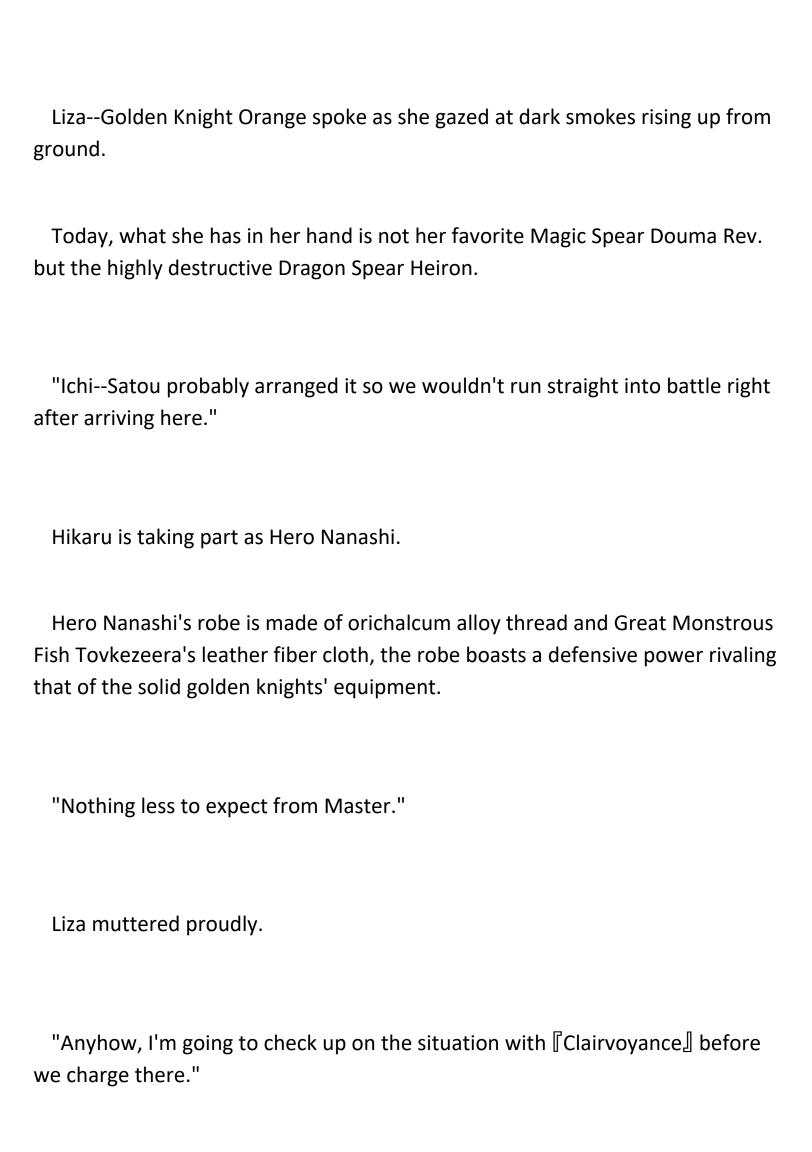


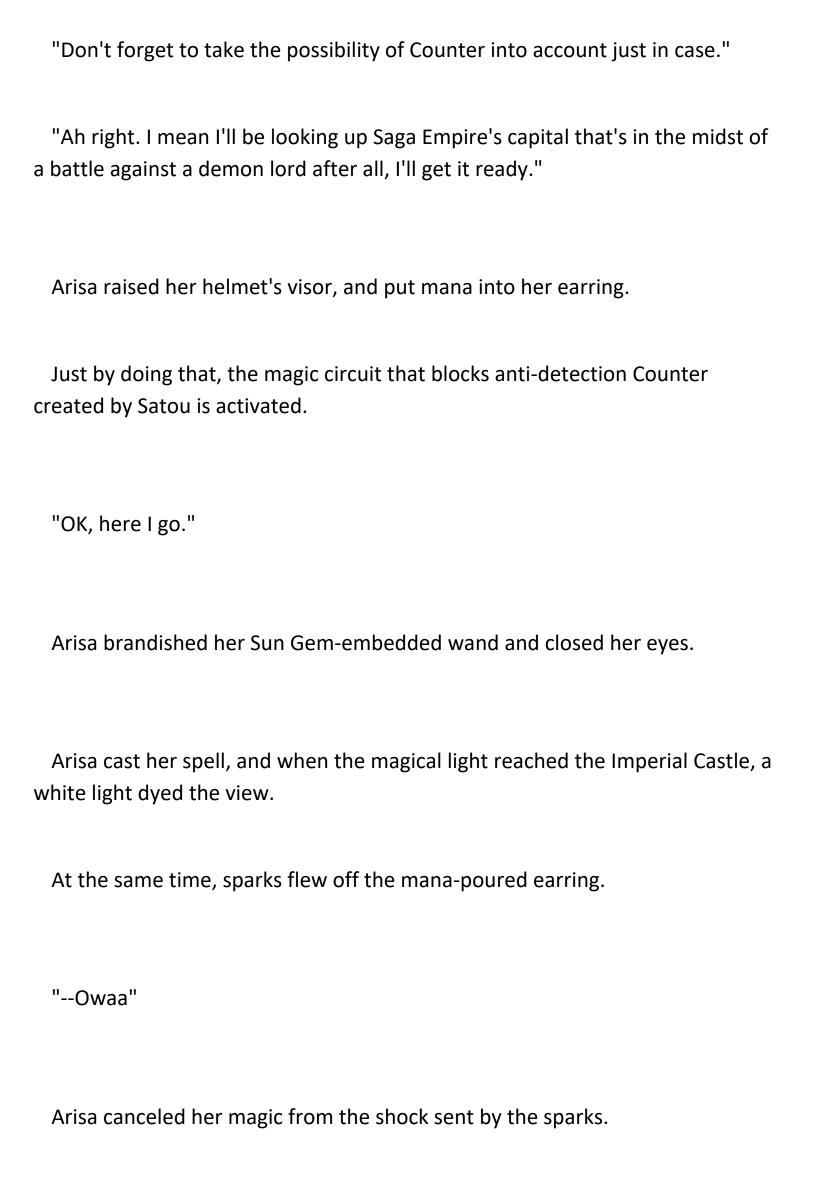




In front of the demon lordor behind me, is one of shelters where old capital's people have taken refuge.
"Was just thinkin' of destroying this shelter's roof, and replenishing some miasma running short"
That must be a fake too.
While focusing on the demon lord's conduct, I use Parallel Thought skill and check on various things on Map.
Homonculi disguised as soldiers are heading toward shelters while carrying magic bombs inside knapsacks.
This one is probably a fake too, but I cannot disregard it.
I produce artificial spirits [Griffon Riders] with spirit magic
The moment Griffon Riders appeared from my magic, the goblin demon lord made his move.

He must be gunning for the window period before I could use another spell after activating a spell.
I instruct Griphon Riders to stop the homonculi from carrying out their terror acts, and jump into the shadow where the goblin demon lord disappeared into.
16-68. Saga Empire, Battle at the Imperial Capital (1)
* This is not from Satou's point of view
"We popped up farther than I thought we would."
ArisaGolden Knight Red muttered as she stared at a spire on Saga Empire's outer wall far away from where she was.
The other girls donning golden armor are right behind her.
Several airships are flying above the capital's sky enshrouded in massive dark clouds as they shoot bombardment down to the ground.
"It appears like the battle has already started."











Lulu--Golden Knight Black asked for confirmation while shouldering the portable accelerated cannon.

"Dimensional Gunboat is a no no, but I think Floating Fort should be fine, no? We can even use it to get to the city."

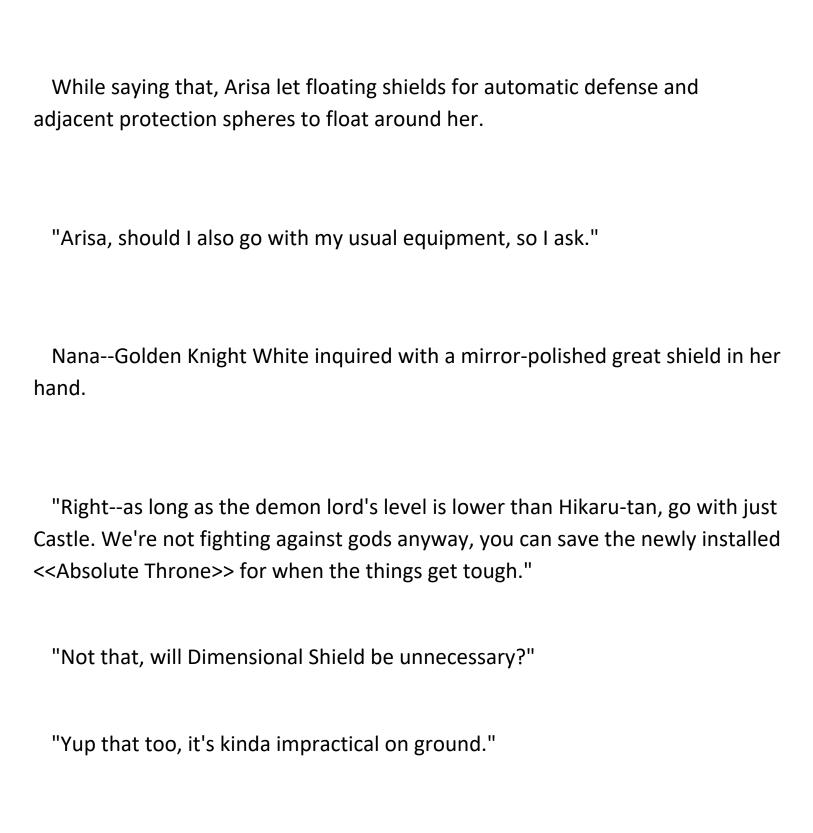
Lulu's personal Gunboat installed with the same kind of system as the Light Ship's sub-dimensional travel capability was not created for battles occurring on the planet's surface, but rather for eliminating the mysterious creatures inhabiting the void sky--the space.

It's not like it cannot operate on the planet's surface, but since it has been crammed to the brim with Satou's technologies with no punch pulled, it could possibly cause more damage than the [rampages of dragons and demon lords].

Unfortunately, there is no anti-god armaments on board of the combat vessel, so it's strictly for fighting against common creatures.

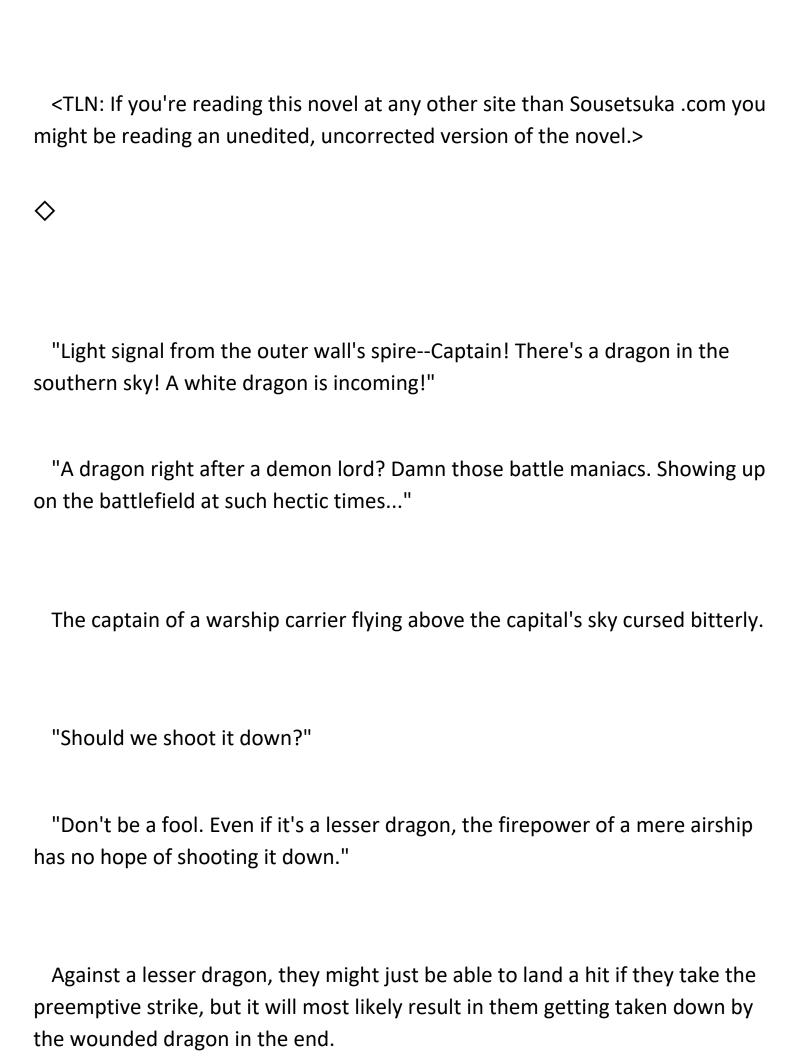
"As it is going to be an Urban Warfare, I shall not mount my Powered Exoskeleton myself. After all, it's unsuitable for grappling fights with ground opponents."

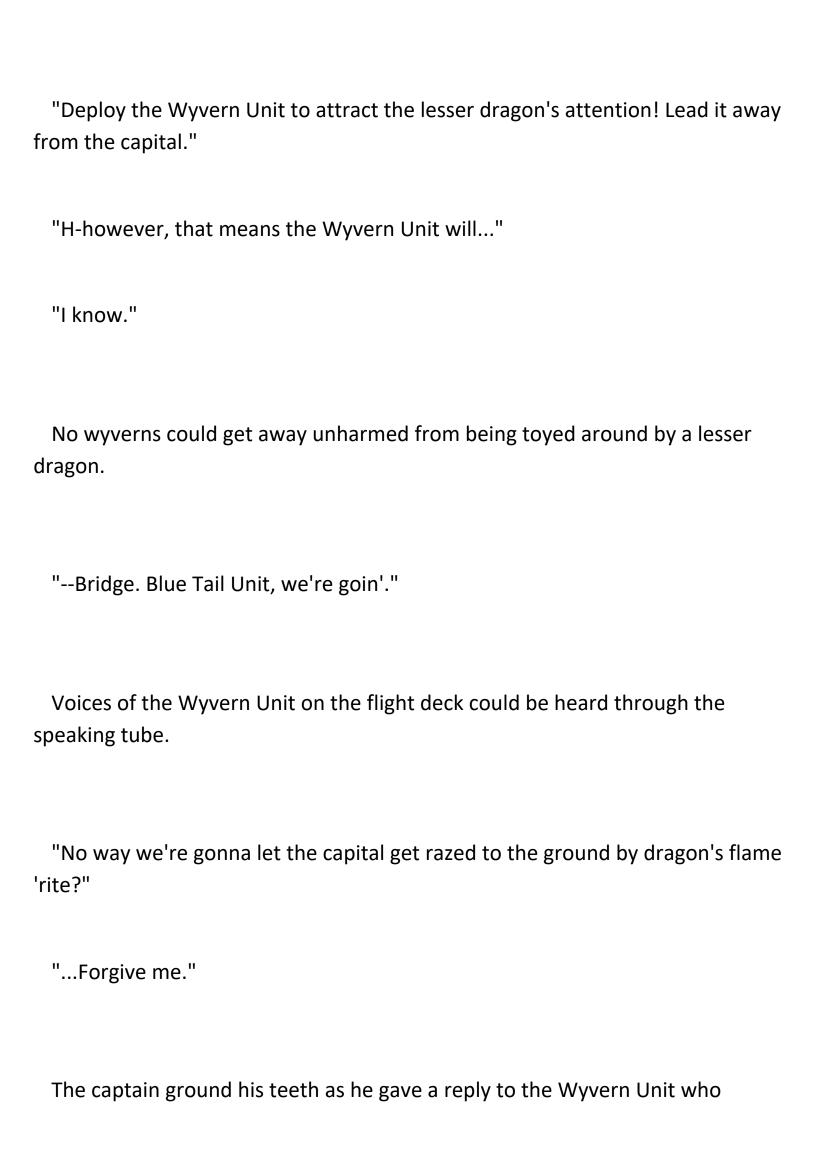
"That thing is like a Powered Suit too though, I think it should be usable on ground, but for someone with high fundamental prowess like Liza-san, I guess it feels more like a shackle."

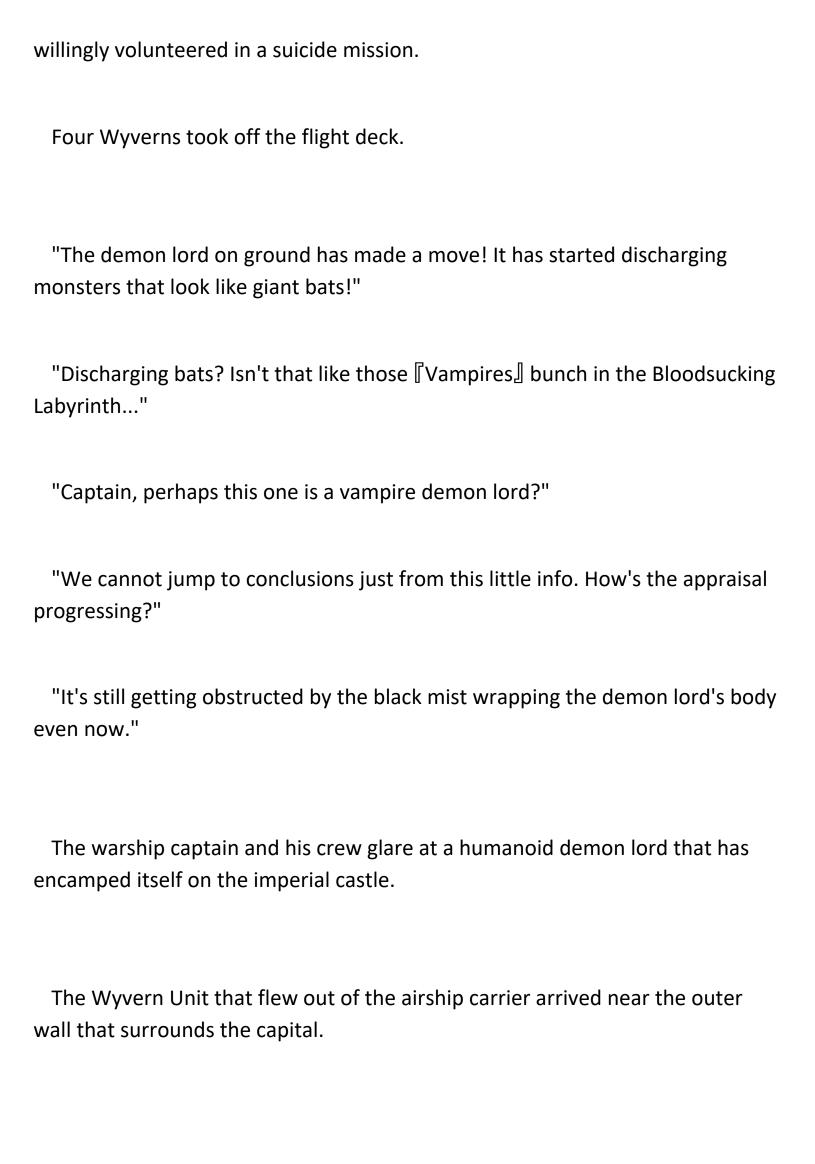


The warship that was built for similar purposes to Lulu's gunboat will cause massive collateral damage from the shockwave generated by its defensive mechanism if used on the planet's surface, thus Arisa denied its usage without a hint of hesitation.

Pochi calling in nanodesu--

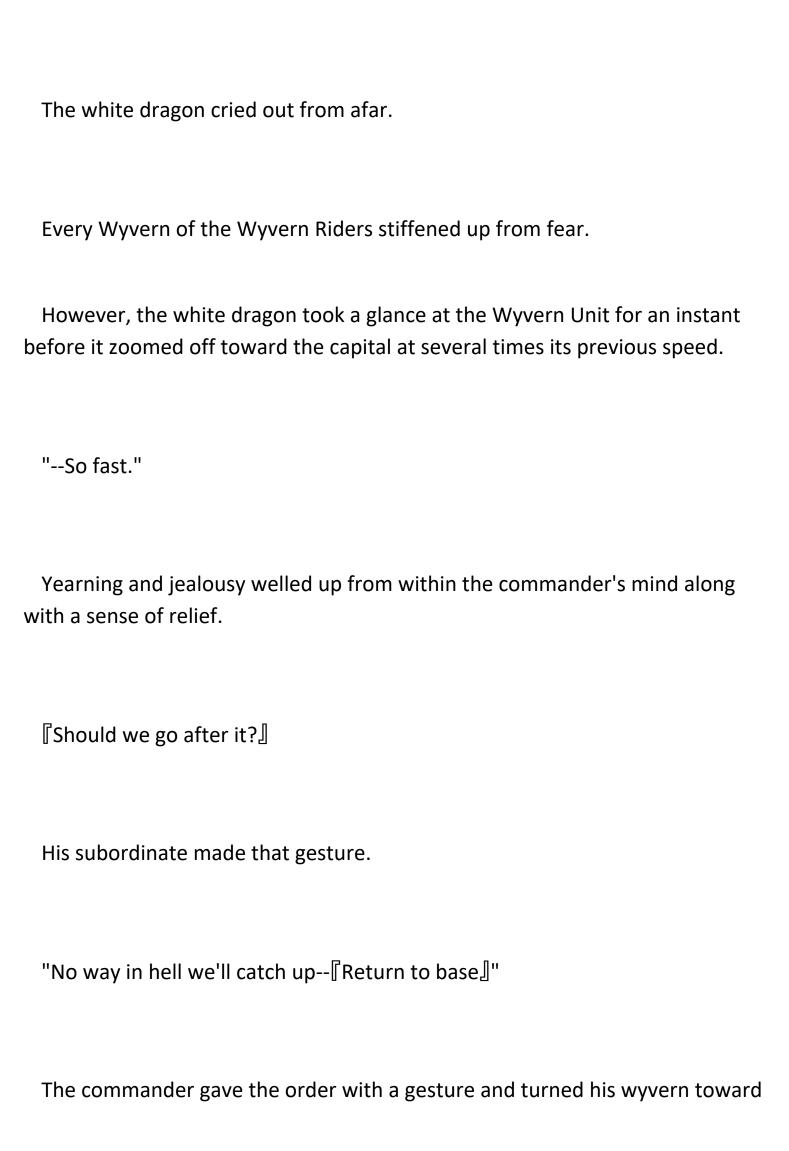




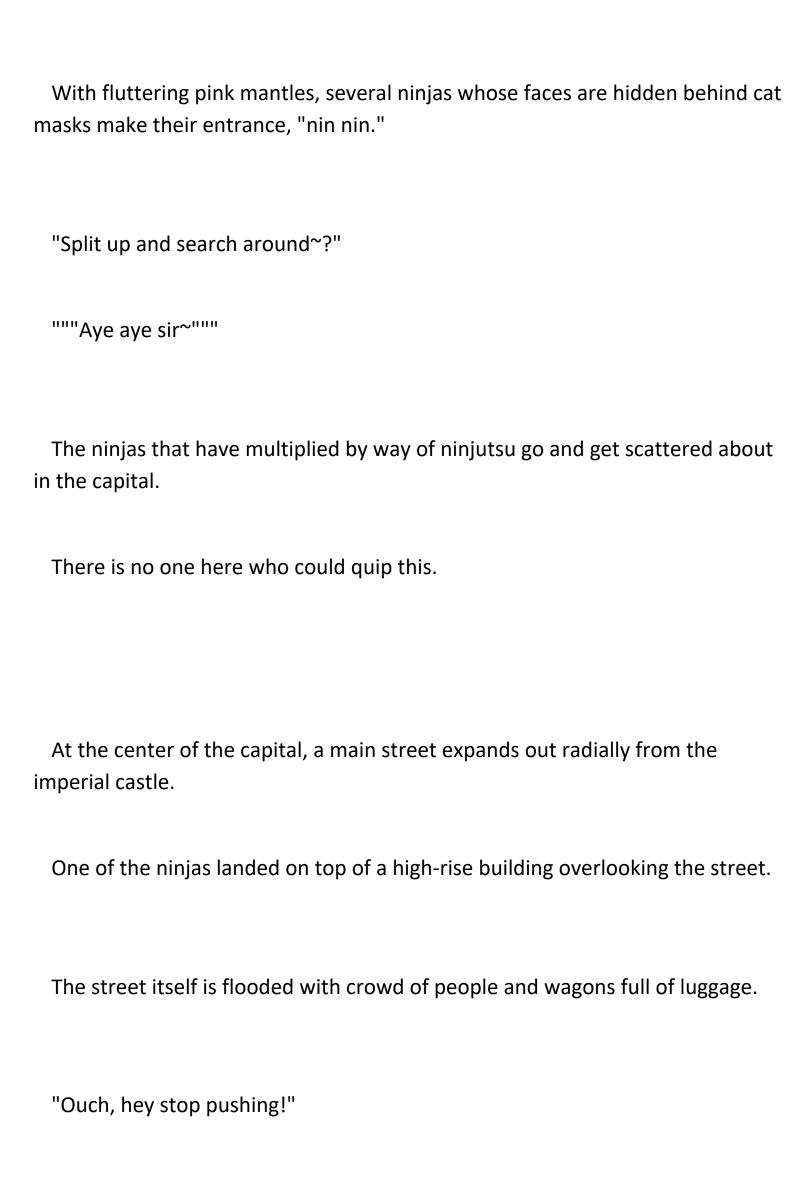


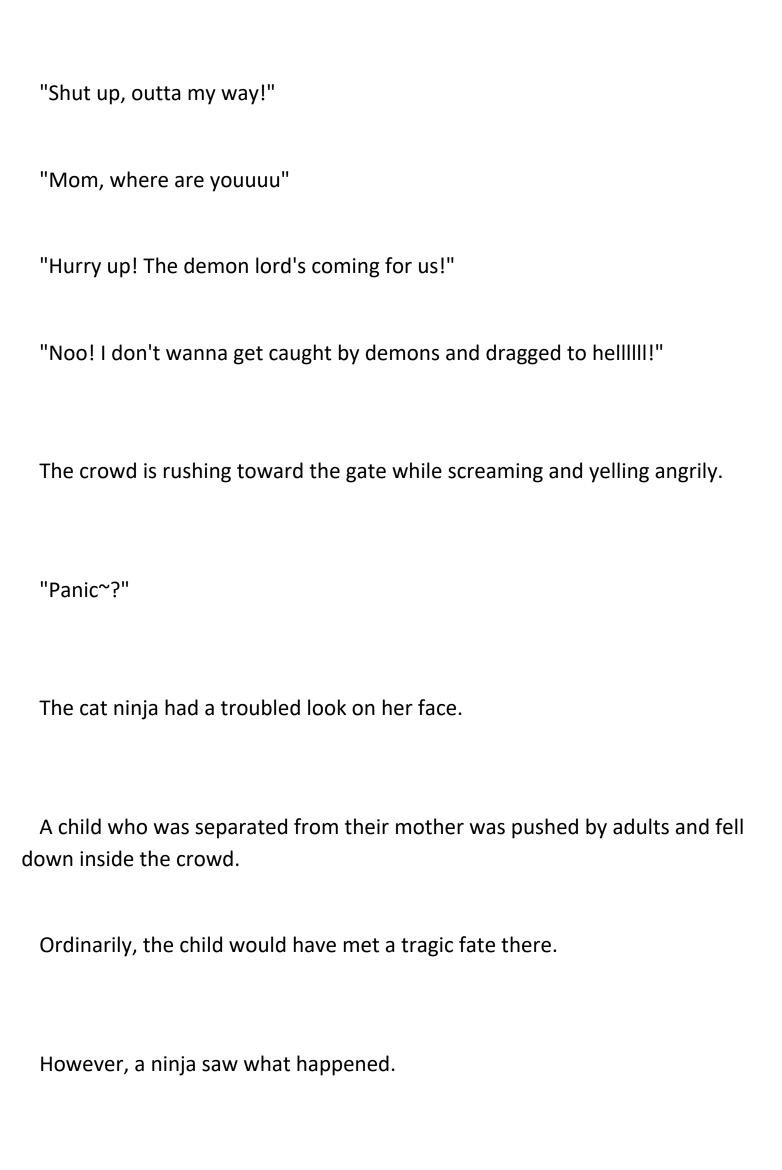
"So that's the white dragon--" The commander made a gesture to his unit, signaling them to make a formation toward the white dragon. "--Golden metal around its neck? No! That's armor! Does this mean, that dragon is a dragon steed of a dragon rider!!" The commander's surprised voice disappeared into the high altitude gust of wind. Pochi calling in nanodesu. There are armored persons riding on the back of meat-san flying lizards nanodesu. That must be Wyvern Riders. Fighting them would be a bother, just ignore 'em Pochi. [Roger nanodesu. Lyuryu, speed up! nanodesu.] The commanders and his subordinates have no way of knowing such a conversation took place for gods they are not.

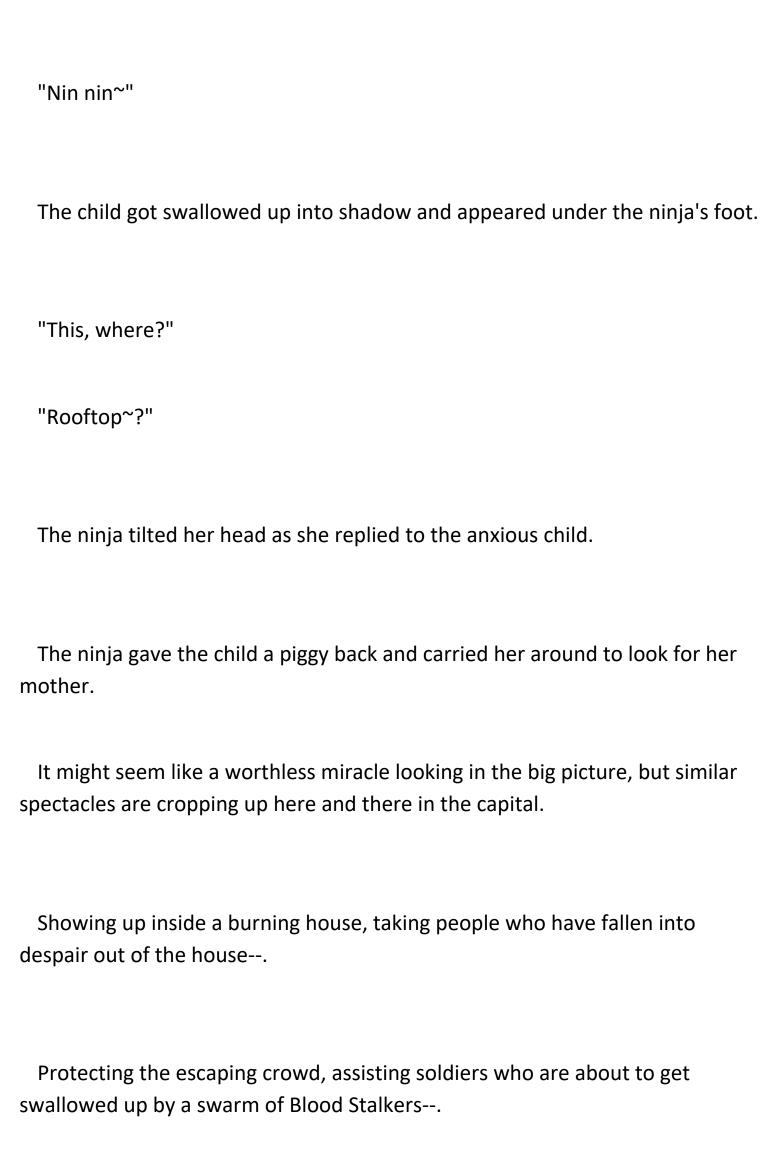
--LYURYURYUUU.

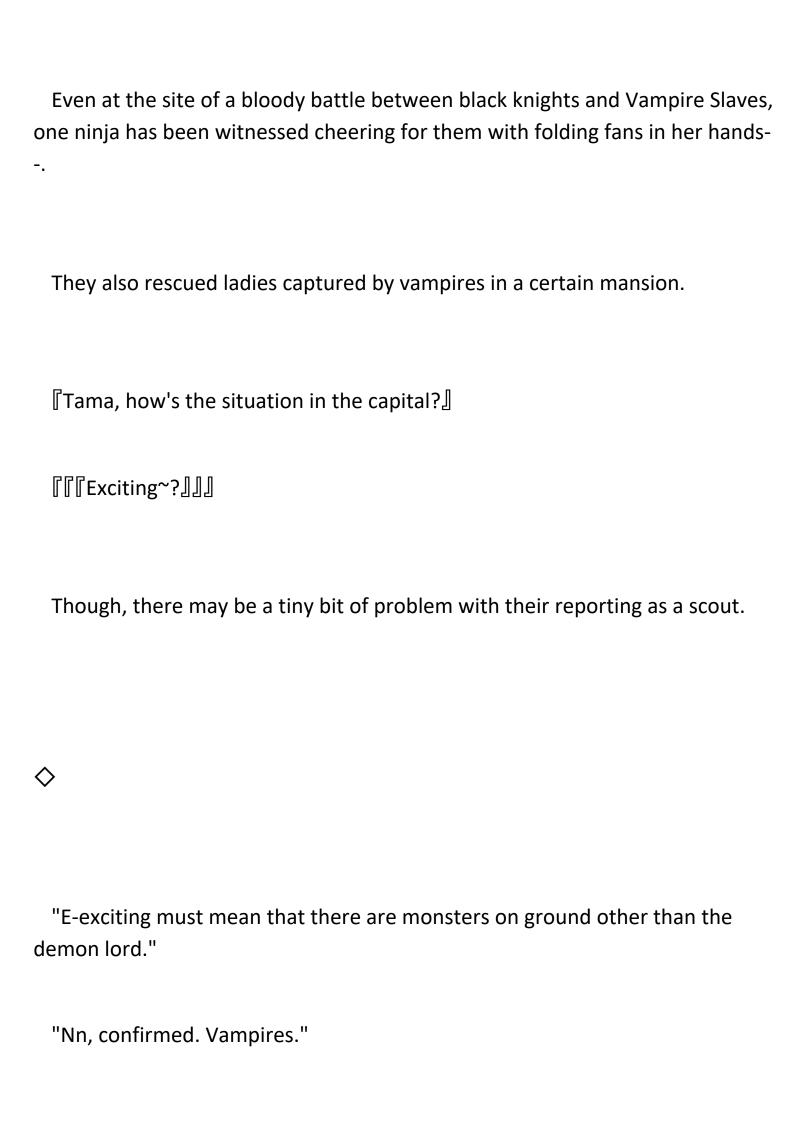


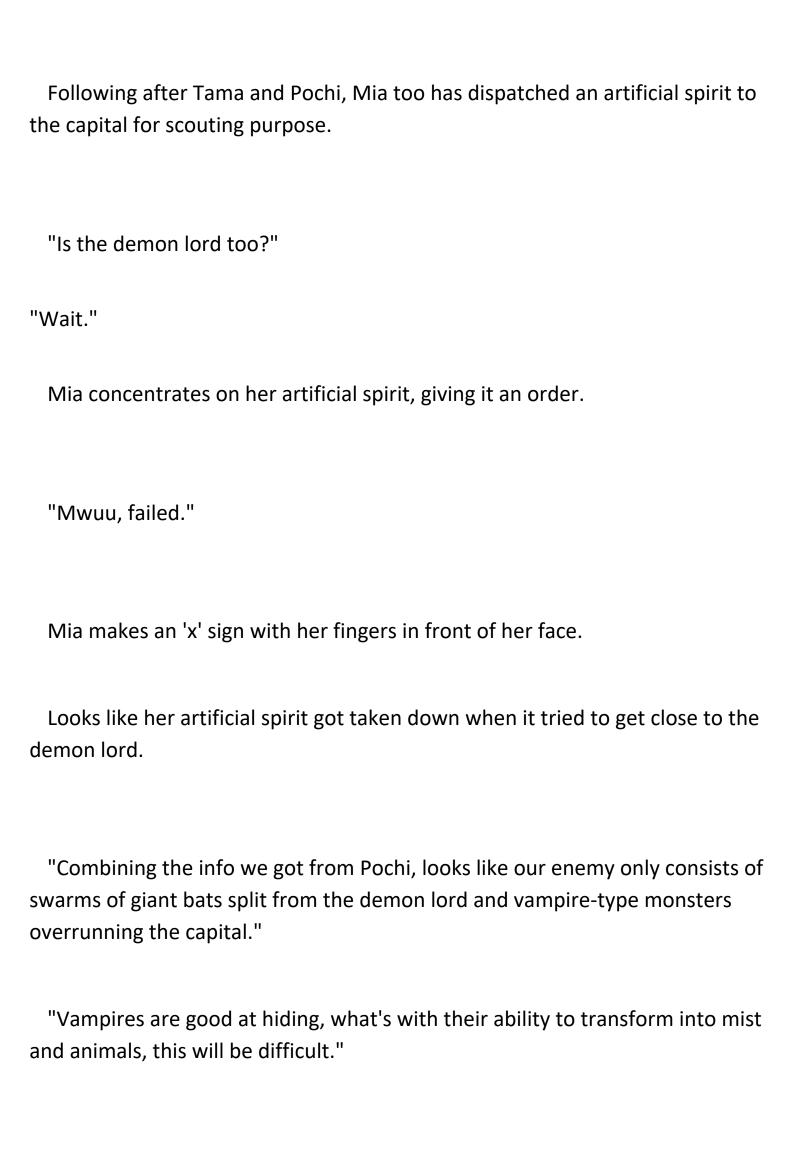
the warship carrier.
As a result, they ended up clashing with the giant bats and saved the carrier from a crisis in the process.
\diamond
"Nin nin~"
Golden Knight Pink showed up from within shadow on top of the capital's outer wall.
"So spacious~?"
Saga Empire's capital is overly too big for one girl to look around by herself.
It's several times the size of the already vast Shiga Kingdom's capital.
"Bun bun bun, bunshin no jutsu~?"

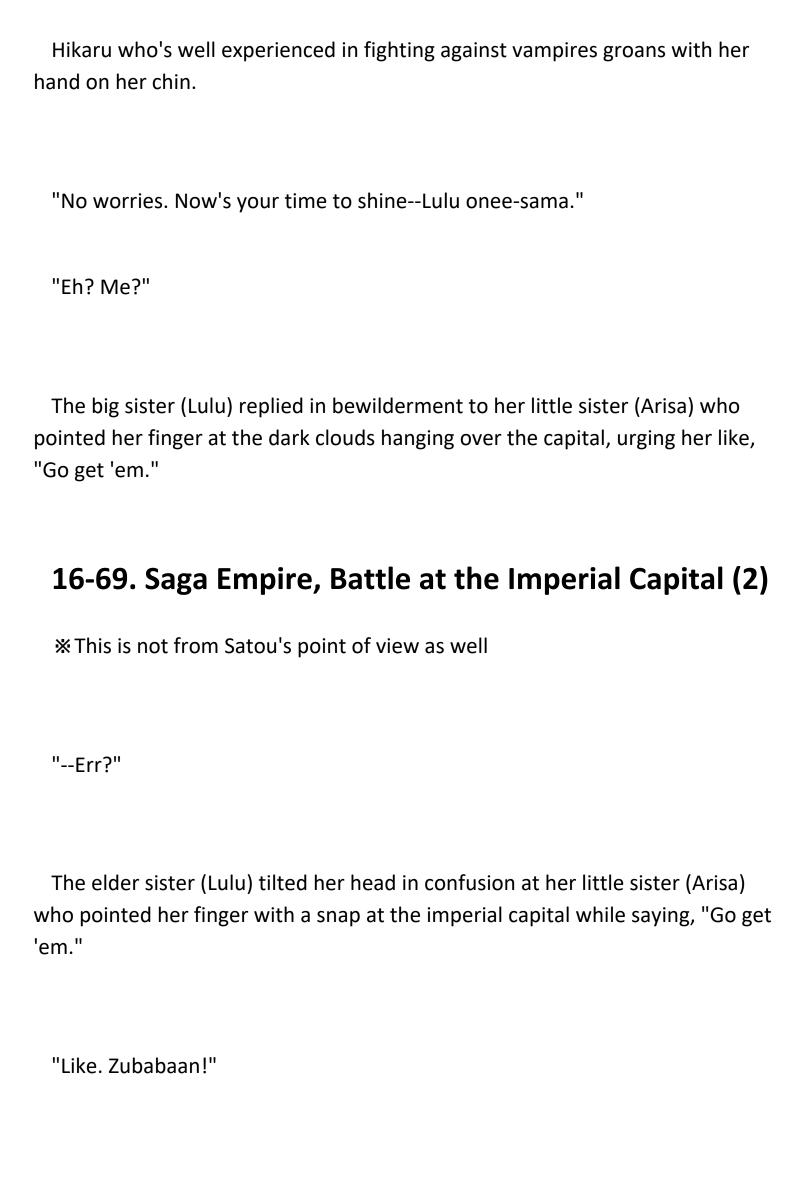




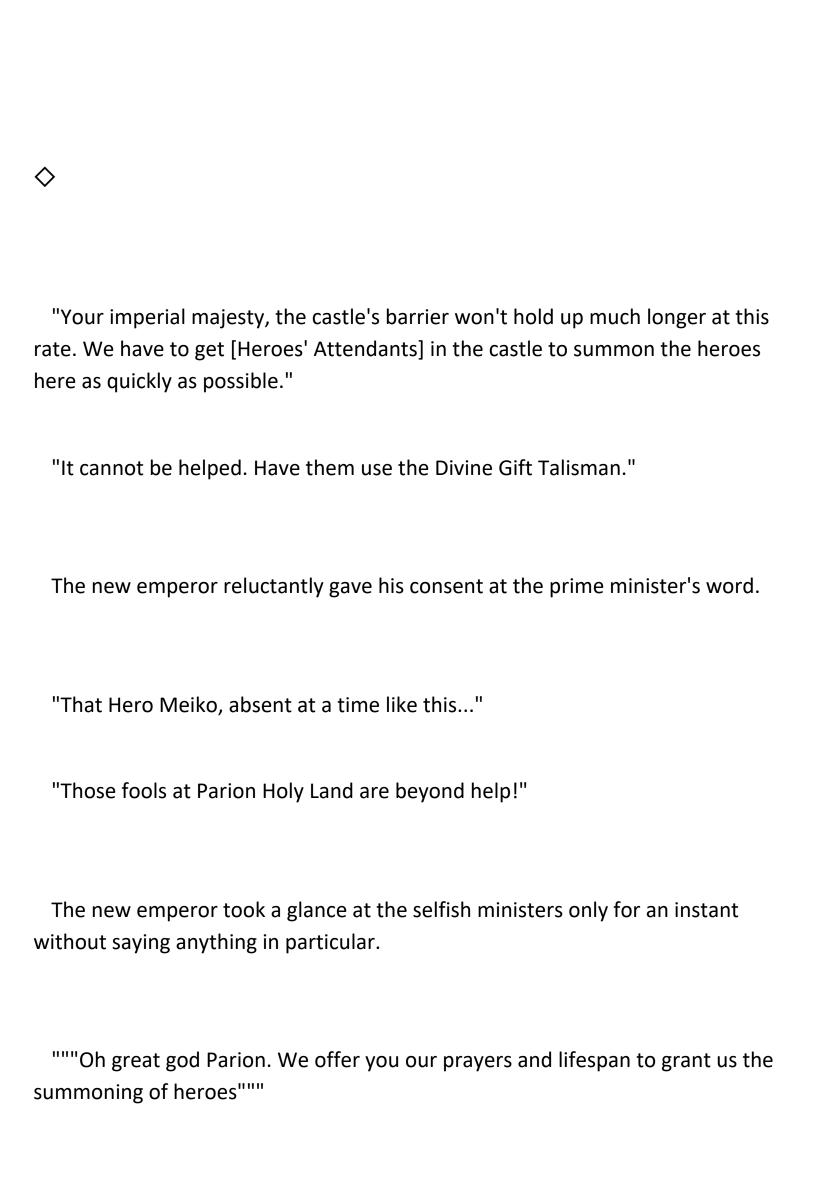








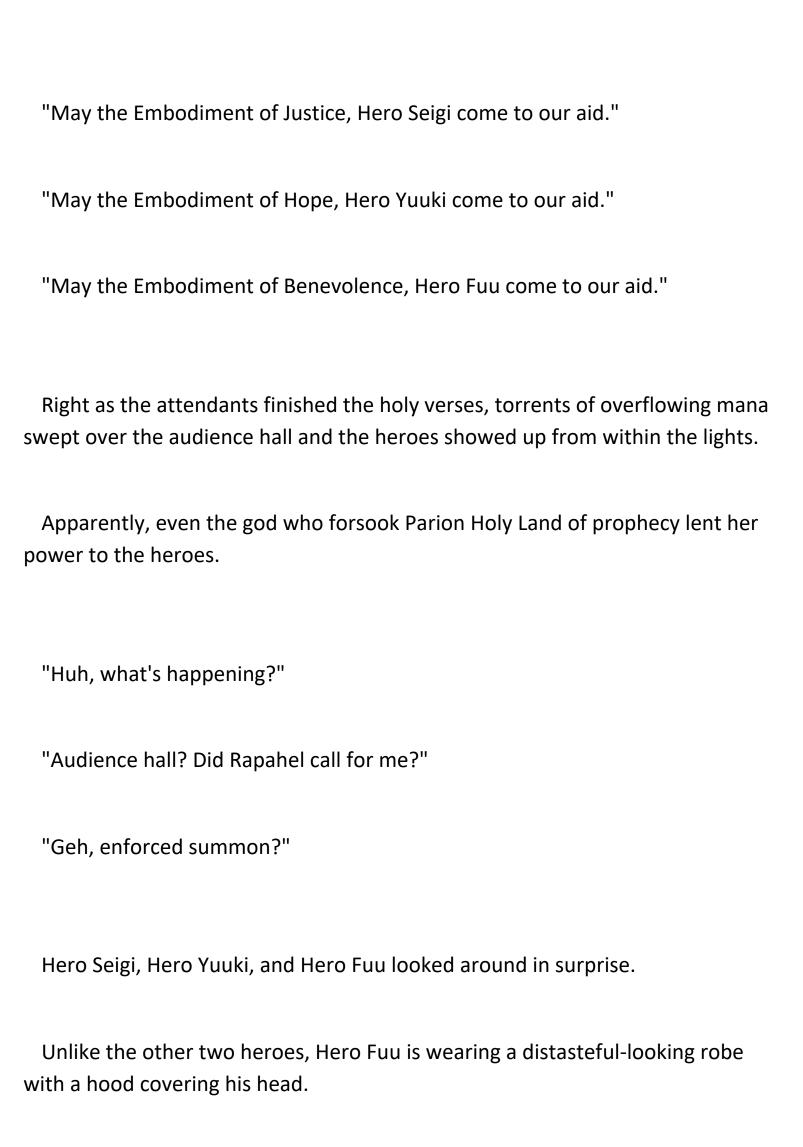
"Zubabaan?"
Lulu still couldn't really follow, but then she inferred Arisa was talking about bombardment and began to act on it.
"Activating combat assistance functionality, expanded vision."
[YES MY LADY, ACTIVATE, SYNCHRONIZED SENSOR]
Voice of the Floating Fort support system replied to her order, Lulu's vision got synchronized with the Floating Fort's expanded vision.
"Aim, retina transfer."
『AYE AYE MA'AM, EXECUTE, RETINA TRANSFER』
A reticle inside the vision overlaps with the target.
Figure of the demon lord that's taken position on top of a spire at the imperial castle's wall showed up in the center display.
Behind it, massive dark clouds are covering the imperial capital.

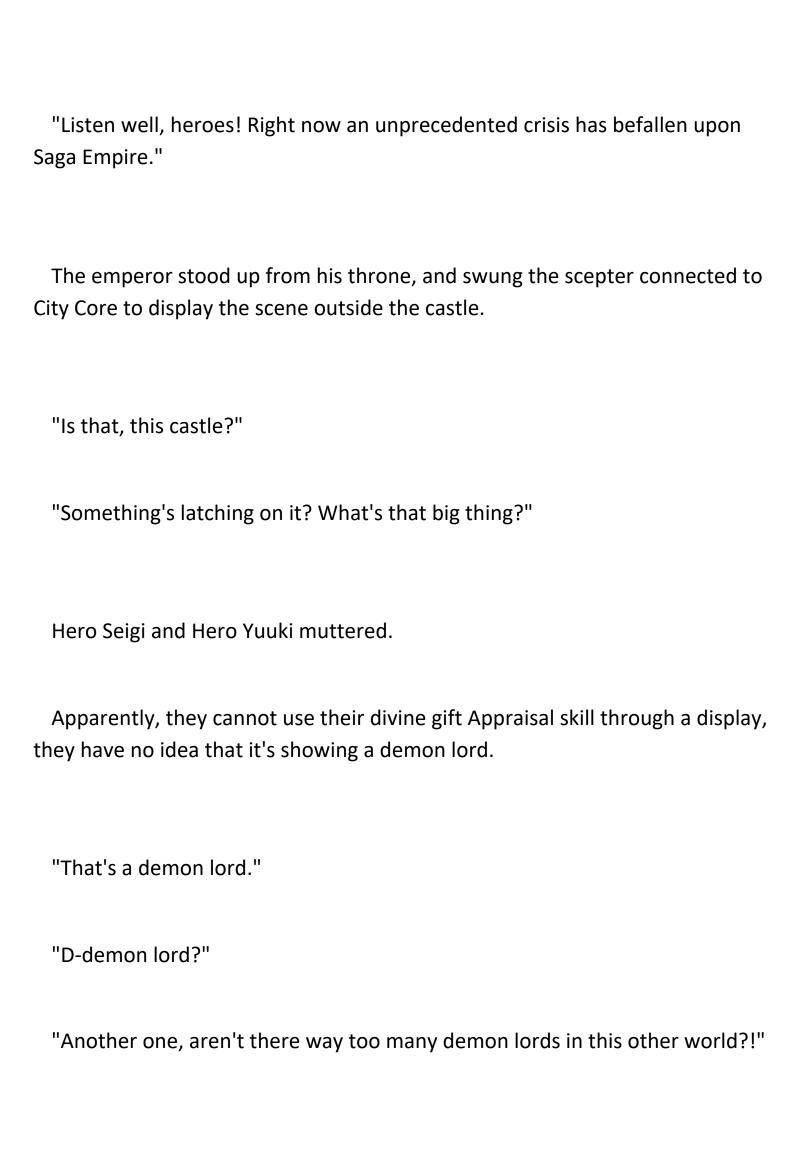


Attendants of Hero Seigi, Hero Yuuki and Hero Fuu held up Talismans while praying to god to summon heroes.
Although not as rarely as the summoning of heroes from other worlds, this particular summoning is rarely ever performed.
The reason is because the talismans given by god Parion would shave off the heroes' attendants lifespan doing this.
"Attendant of Hero Seigi, Moryu, prays in reverence."
"Attendant of Hero Yuuki, Rafe, prays in reverence."
"Attendant of Hero Fuu, Zomu, prays in reverence."
Blue light magic circles manifested around the three attendants.
"""For a miracle that brings salvation to the world of men"""

Blue lights rise up from the magic circles as the attendants who recited the

holy verses got dyed in blue color.





At the emperor's word, Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki sounded surprised and amazed.

Hero Fuu who's been looking down since the beginning is chewing his nails while restlessly surveying the surroundings like some suspicious person.

"--Oh crap oh crap oh crap, this is bad. Why'd the Vampire General who should have been leading Vampire Knights turned into a demon lord. It doesn't make any sense. It's gotten out of my control too, and I can't call for help since the connection to Ramiko-san at the base got cut off... Oh crap, it's a dead end. Damn, damn, damn..."

His muttering never turned into sounds, and no one in the audience hall where the crisis of demon lord was looming paid any heed to Hero Fuu's strange demeanor.



At the same time, on the outskirts of Saga Empire--.

"Aiming complete. Fix."

YES MY LADY. DIMENSION PILE, STAND BY



The sacred tree stone furnace in the main floating fort fills the main armament with an enormous amount of mana.
[ACCELERATION, OVER DRIVE]
When it's done charging, a red light magic circle spreads out, parallel to the virtual gun barrel.
"Preparations complete! Arisa?"
"Get 'em!"
At Lulu who checked for the final confirmation, Arisa swung her arm down.
"Launch off!"
[IGNITION!]
As Lulu pulled the trigger, a flash of light dyed the surrounding in white, a light ball shining blue blasted into the head of demon lord that was sitting on top of

the castle while leaving a beam-like trail behind.

That blue light ray made the atmosphere vibrate, burning brilliant blue lights under the dark clouds into the people's eyes.

Even the people who were scrambling to escape stopped in their tracks, some stopped the people next to them who were holding their arm, and looked up at the sky.

--VWZ.

When the demon lord sensed a danger, the holy shell had already blown its head away, vanishing into the capital's sky.

The holy shell didn't stop at just obliterating the demon lord's head, the shockwaves generated from it also blew away the dark clouds behind the demon lord, allowing sunlights to peek into the imperial capital.

Even the dark clouds that didn't get hit directly by the shockwave are moving away as if getting pushed aside by the sunlights.

- --VZS.
 - --GWUGYZAAA.
- --VZWS.

Blood Stalkers and Vampire Slaves that were bathed in sunlights instantly
turned into ashes, while Vampires and Vampire Knights scampered off into
shadows as their body were getting burned by the sunlights.

Bats and wolves familiars that were split from the demon lord's body turned into splashes of dark red blood the moment the demon lord's head went poof.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Hit."

Mia who had dispatched Sylph to scout ahead again reported the collision.

"Yeay. How much damage did it make?"

"It has lost its head, I think that might have killed it."

Lulu replied to Hikaru who clapped her hands in elation.

"That was awesome. One-shotting a demon lord from somewhere far out view."



Tama here? After the blue faced person went aplomp, soldeers-san got weird?

Pochi and Tama reported on the revival of the demon lord and the remaining vampires' scheme.

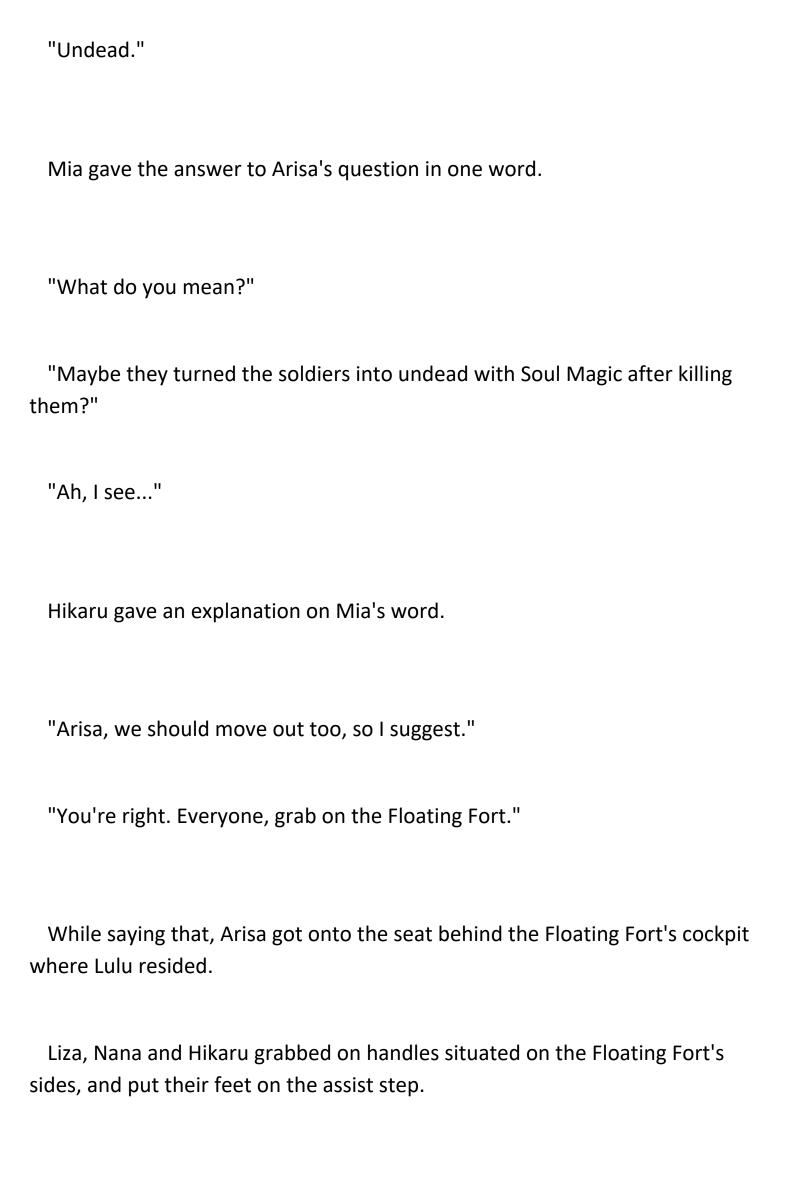
As an addition for the sake of Tama's honor, the vampire that bit the soldier Tama witnessed had been previously defeated.

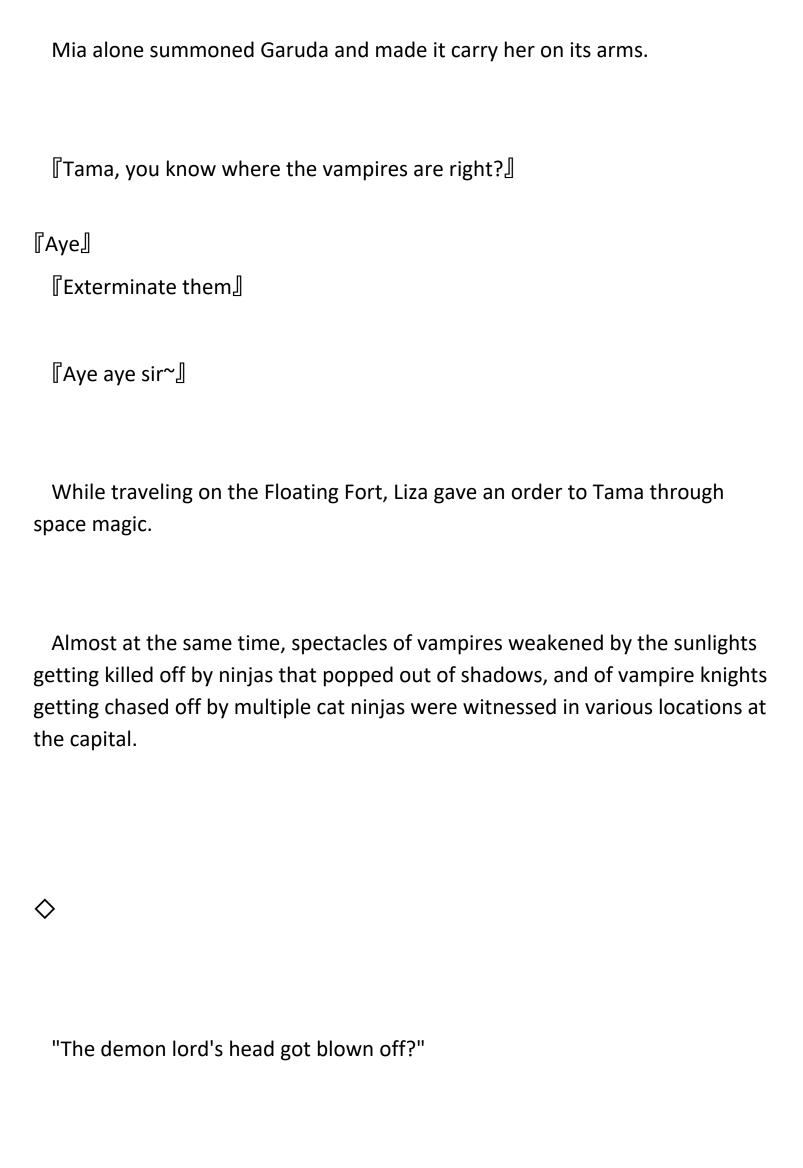
"So it really went and regenerated itself eh~"

"Demon lords are more tenacious than G, so Master said." <TLN: G=Gokiburi, roaches.>

Arisa reacted to something else next to Hikaru and Nana who lamented over the demon lord's revival.

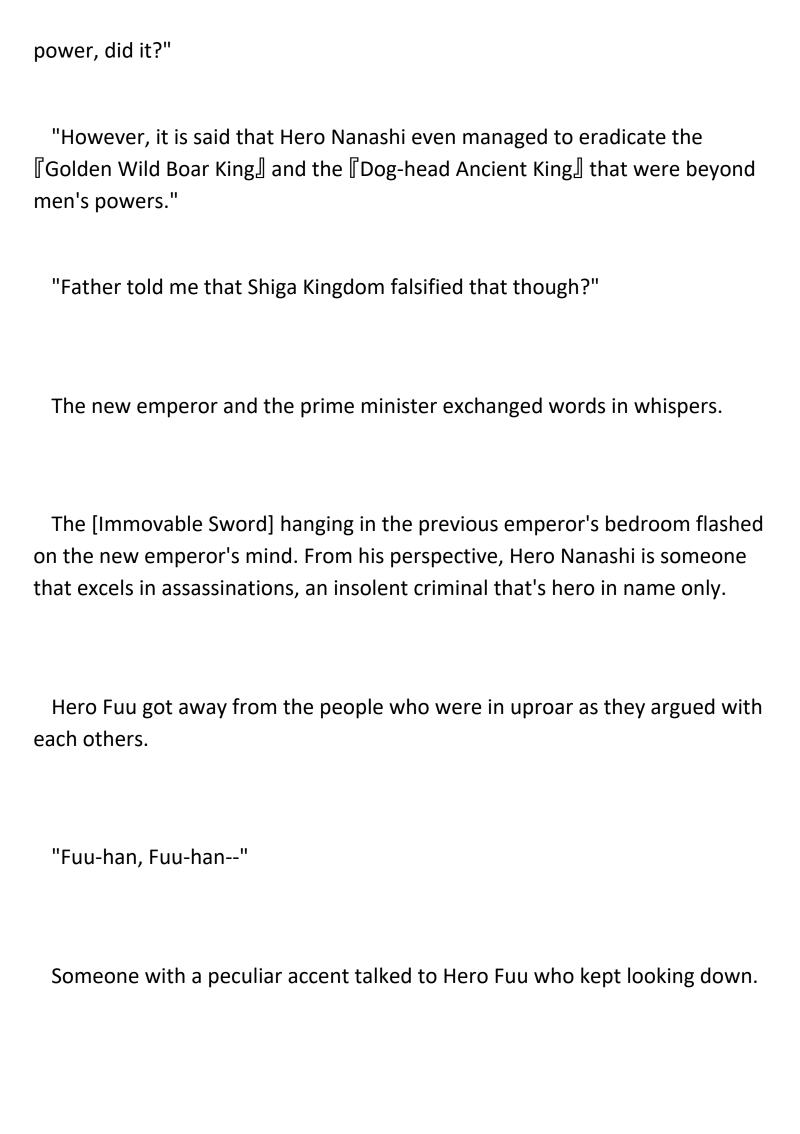
"What's the meaning of this? The vampires in this world can only increase their numbers through ritual right?"



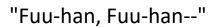


"What was that attack!" "Was it a ritual magic performed by the imperial court mage division?" "Not possible. The commander and vice commander of the court mage division are still missing--" "It's dragons! That absurd amount of force could only come from the species that walks on the path of destruction, it must be a heavenly dragon's attack!" "No, could it be a magic cannon used by Furu Empire at the climax of great war?" "Nonsense! Where could such a weapon get deployed from?" A crucible of confusion descended in the imperial castle's audience hall after they witnessed Lulu's shot blowing away the demon lord's head. None of them appears to be aware that the attack that had bewildered them so much came not from a dragon nor a hero, but an attendant of a hero. "Your imperial majesty, perhaps that was Shiga Kingdom's Hero Nanashi's doing?" "That can't be... Are you telling me that was a feat done by the hands of man?

Even the magic cannon of ancient Lalakie civilization didn't hold that much



16-70. Saga Empire, Battle at the Imperial Capital (3)



Hero Fuu who was summoned to Saga Empire's audience hall by his attendant looked around for the source of a voice with a familiar tone calling his name.

"Fuu-han, everybody's gonna get suspicious of ya if ya keep fidgeting round and round like that."

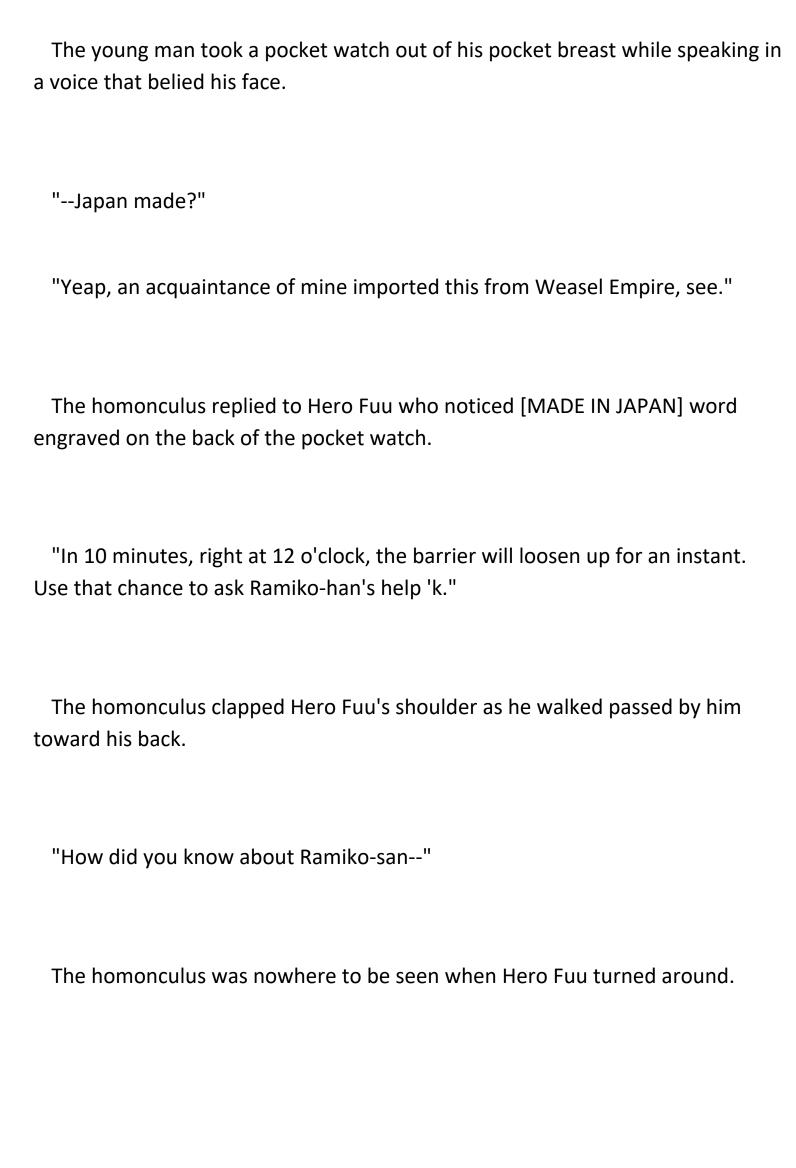
Hero Fuu turned around when someone clapped his shoulder.

"--Eh?"

The one standing there was not a small man he expected to be, but a young man in chamberlain attires.

Appraisal skill given to Hero Fuu by god Parion informed him that this young man is a homonculus.

"Oh this thing, 's what they call messenger boy y'see."



"The demon lord's head regenerated into a goat's!"
Shouts from people in the audience room reached Hero Fuu's ears as he looked around at the surroundings.
The demon lord's head that should have been lost by a shot from mysterious sniper has regenerated.
"Goat head, but isn't it a vampire? Sabbath? What does that mean?"
Flustered voice of Hero Seigi could be heard too.
Both the ministers and the heroes were thrown into confusion.
"Quiet down, Seigi. I'm gonna roast this demon lord up, come with me."
"Hold on, Yuuki, don't pull my hand. Aren't you gonna take Fuu too?"
"Fuu? Nah, not that guy."
Hero Yuuki's words stabbed Fuu's heart.

Due to that, the continuation from Hero Yuuki, "That guy hardly ever attended the practice. He's gonna get hurt real bad if we take him with us" never reached his ears.
The future might take a different turn had Hero Fuu actually heard those words.
"Fetch everything! Anything to hold down the door!"
A knight in black armor shouted as he held down a huge door leading out of a chapel.
Around ten soldiers were holding down the door along with the black knight, their foots floated up whenever the door got knocked hard as they desperately held down the door.
Behind them, orphaned children from a joint establishment of the temple, and apprentice priestess who take care of these children are looking at them with terrified expressions.

"Parion-sama, please give your protection to these courageous knights"
When an apprentice priestess girl offered her prayers to god, the other apprentices and orphans started to go along with her in desperation.
However, the world is ruthless.
The bulky door let out a creaking sound, and then a red eye peek from the crack.
The knights and some of the soldiers spat out curses, while the majority of people here screamed.
The mouth that was peeking from the door warped into a sneer.
The red eye disappeared from the crack, and right when everyone breathed a sigh of relief
BOOMwith a roaring sound, the bulky door got blown away along with the black knight and soldiers.

A Vampire Knight with hunched back showed up. Its eyes looking for prey stare at the apprentice priestesses next to the orphan children one by one. The Vampire Knight's tongue squirmed like that of a snake, its red eyes and split mouth formed crescent shapes. The Vampire Knight slowly steps forward as if to fulfill its sadistic heart. "You shall not pass! So long as I wear this Black Steel Armor granted by his majesty, my knees shall never yield before evil spirits!" The black knight stood up, drew a sword hanging on its waist, and stepped forward to block the Vampire Knight. His sword is clad in red light, the light produces another blade on top of the sword itself. "--That's Magic Edge!" One of the orphan kids shouted, hope dwelt in other kids' eyes.



Only heroes and select few transcendental beings reached this height, a domain reserved for heroes and devils.

No matter how capable Saga Empire's black knights are, they are still within the confine of the domain of men.

"I, won't, let you."

The black knight stood up.

Even after losing one of his arms, with blood all over his body, he keeps standing up to show his back on those whom he must protect.

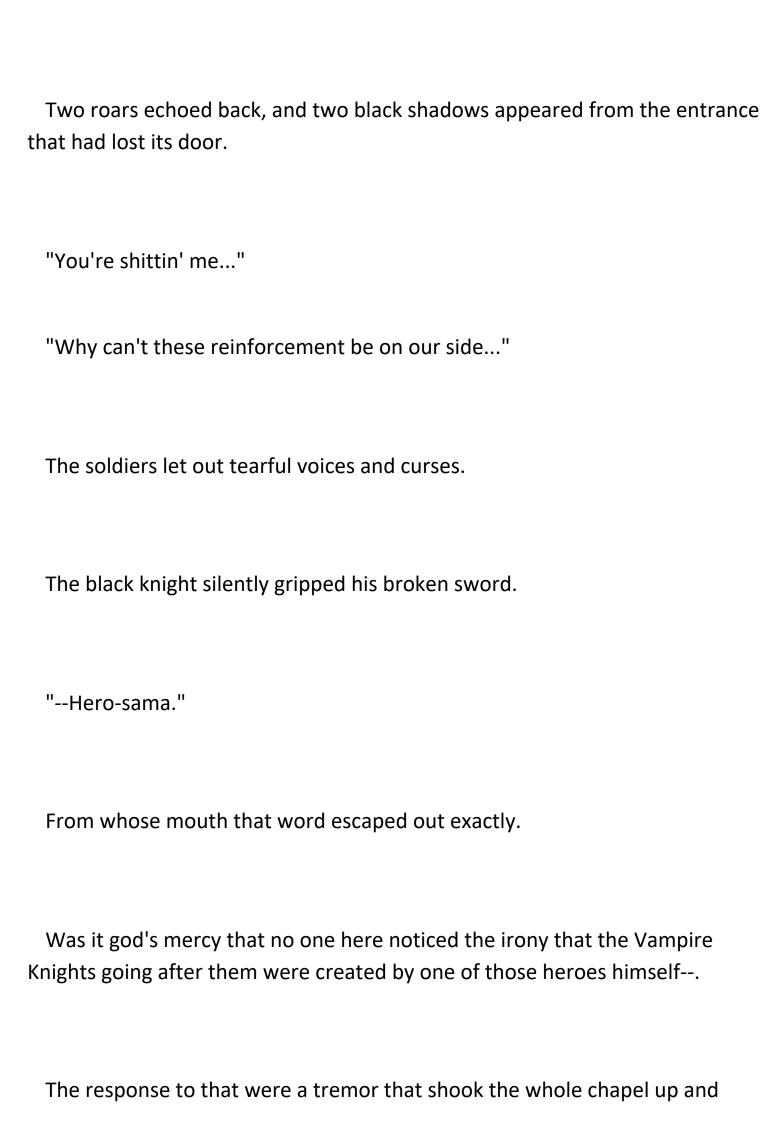
Soldiers who saw the very model of a knight in him whipped their trembling legs and formed a meat wall in front of the people.

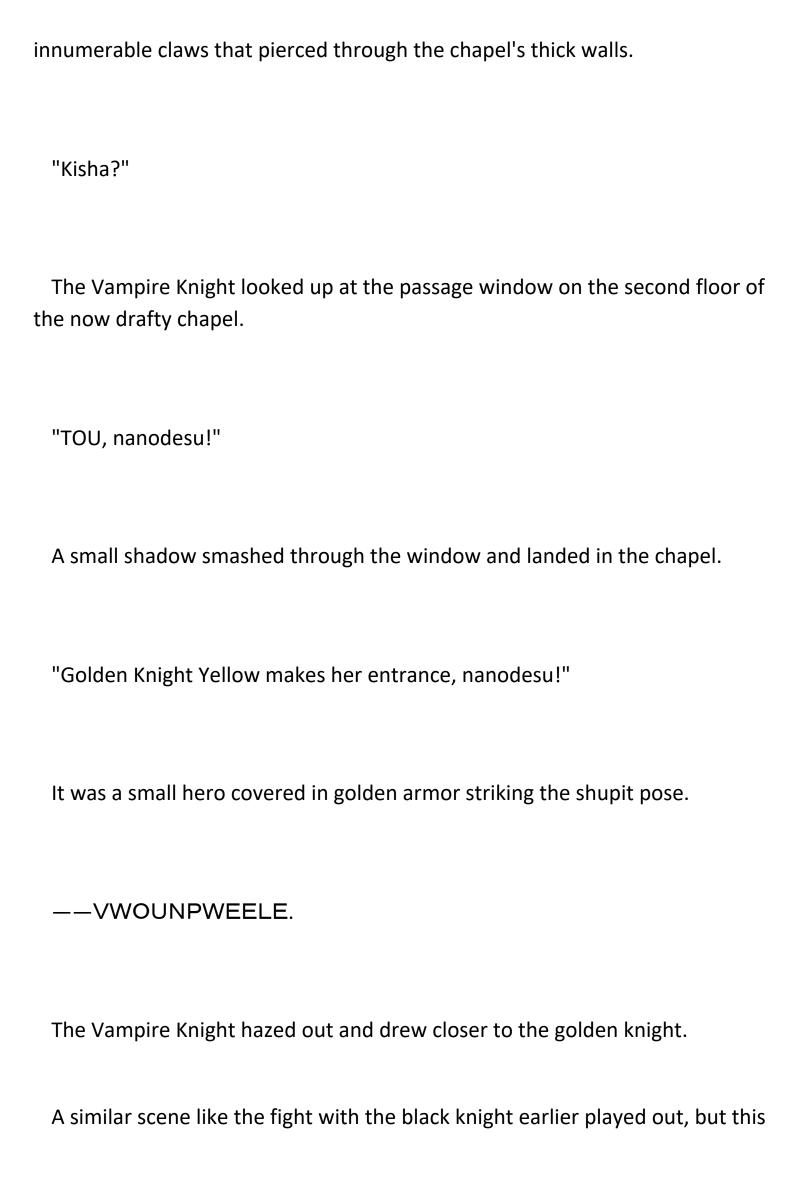
The Vampire Knight who was fighting bare handed before turned the nails on both its hands red, and stretched them out into ten blades.

The Vampire Knight licked one of the blades, smiling sadistically.

While sensing that this battle would be his last, the black knight produced magic edge on his sword.

VWOUNPWEELE.
The Vampire Knight hazed out and showed up in front of the black knight.
The black knight managed to block the ten blades' assault twice before his sword broke on the third clash.
"My sword may break, but my knight heart shall never shatter. That's the creed of my family."
The Vampire Knight sneered 'kisha kisha' at the black knight's words that sounded more like a self-persuasion.
VWOUNPWEELE。
The Vampire Knight roared.
VWOUNPWEELE。
VWOUNPWEELE。

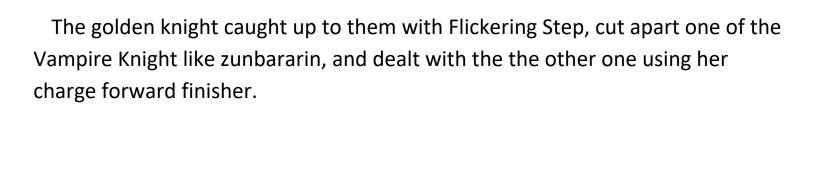




one had some differences.
The ten blades brandished by the Vampire Knight were broken into pieces by the white sword wielded by the golden knight, the blood breath that could melt even rocks couldn't even manage to burn her yellow mantle, dispersing into floor instead.
VWOUNPWEELE。
VWOUNPWEELE。
The remaining two Vampire Knights ignored the golden knight and rushed toward the civilians instead.
The black knight attempted to stand in their way, but he has no strength left in his arm and legs.
The soldiers went ahead to protect the black knight, but they were blown away by one swing of the Vampire Knight, rolling on the ground like barrels.
The Vampire Knight swung down a killing blow at the black knight.
"""KNIGHT-SAMA!"""

The apprentices closed their eyes, fearing the worst. "Chicchicchi, nanodesu. You shall not carry out a honey nose act in the presence of Dog Hero -- nodesuyo." The apprentice priestesses opened their eyes to hear that somewhat silly voice. The golden knight was shaking her finger as she stood in front of the black knight, protecting him. If her master was present here, he might have corrected her to use [heinous] instead of [honey nose], but no one in this place could afford such right now. Additionally, the [Pochi] part after the 'Dog Hero' part was overwritten with an electronic buzz sound produced by the golden armor's support AI. "Aah! You can't run away nanodesuyo!" The Vampire Knights that had realized the disadvantageous situation they

were in scrambled for chapel's entrance.



The last one barely escaped her pursuit and went outside the chapel.

"You won't get away nodesu!"

The golden knight stopped her rushed for the entrance.

The Vampire Knight that should have run away went back into the chapel, looking frightened of something.

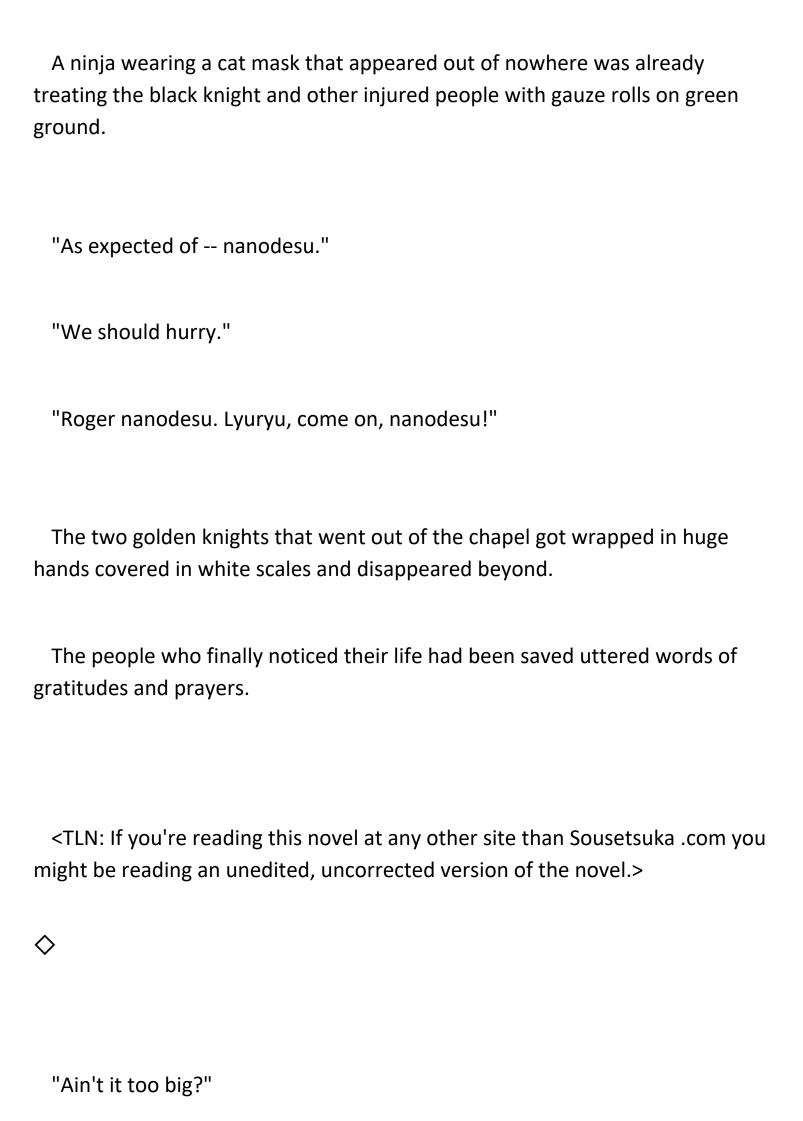
Its 'kisha kisha' laugh disappeared as it stared outside the chapel in fear.

--VWOUNPWEELE.

Blood overflowing out of the Vampire Knight's body turned into dark red armor, a lance and a knight shield of the same color materialized in its hands. The Vampire Knight had entered into maximum battle mode in a short amount of time.

A white blade sprouted of its back. The lance and shield that had just been materialized fell down as liquid, the Vampire Knight itself disappeared into ash. At the opposite side, a golden knight holding a dragon spear stood unassumingly. "[Golden Knight Orange] nanodesu!" Golden Knight Yellow's careless remark got overwritten with a recorded audio provided by the golden knight's support AI. "Yellow, let me ride on Lyuryu. We'll close in on the demon lord from the sky." "Yes nanodesu. But, it'd be bad if we don't give medicines to the knight person first nanodesuyo?" "No need to worry about that."

Golden Knight Orange turned her face toward the black knight.



Hero Yuuki who had got on one of the fortress towers murmured as he looked up at the goat-headed demon lord clinging on the castle walls.

Hero Seigi, four black knights and two casters are present next to him, acting as supports.

The attendants who summoned these heroes to the audience hall are not suited for battle, thus they're not here.

"It sure is.... Well, that demon lord at Holy Land Parion was huge too, but your magic will take care of it, right Yuuki."

"You say that like it's so easy."

In addition to Hero Yuuki's Unique Skills strengthening his magic, he also took a magic potion that boosts magic which his attendant, Michael aka Mieka forced on him.

"Inferno"

Fire magic advance spell that had been strengthened to double its power exploded on the demon lord.





The demon lord went after the heroes while smashing apart castle walls, towers and other facilities inside the castle.

The fact that it couldn't catch up to the heroes due to the defensive ramps and walls seemed to make it quite irritated, it pulled out one of the towers, and hurled it at the heroes.

"Uwaa"

"Geh--Quick Burst."

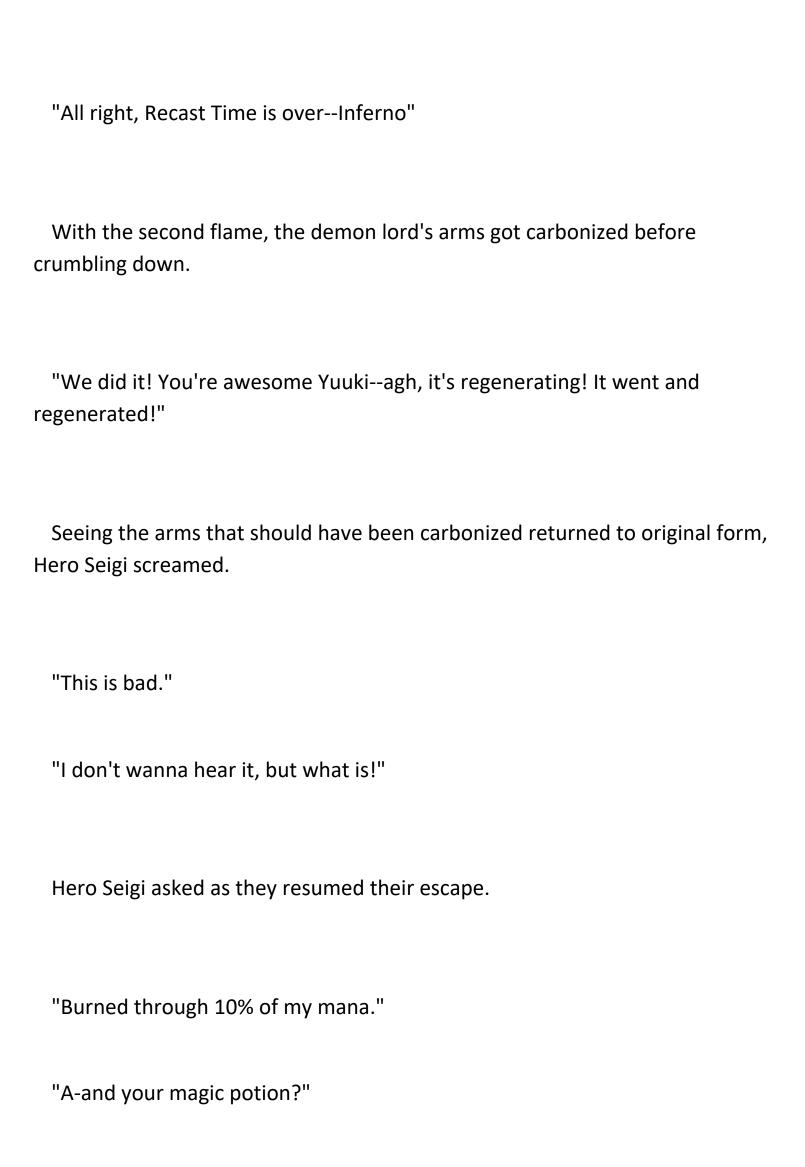
Hero Yuuki used Explosion Magic instead of his specialty fire magic, blowing apart the incoming tower.

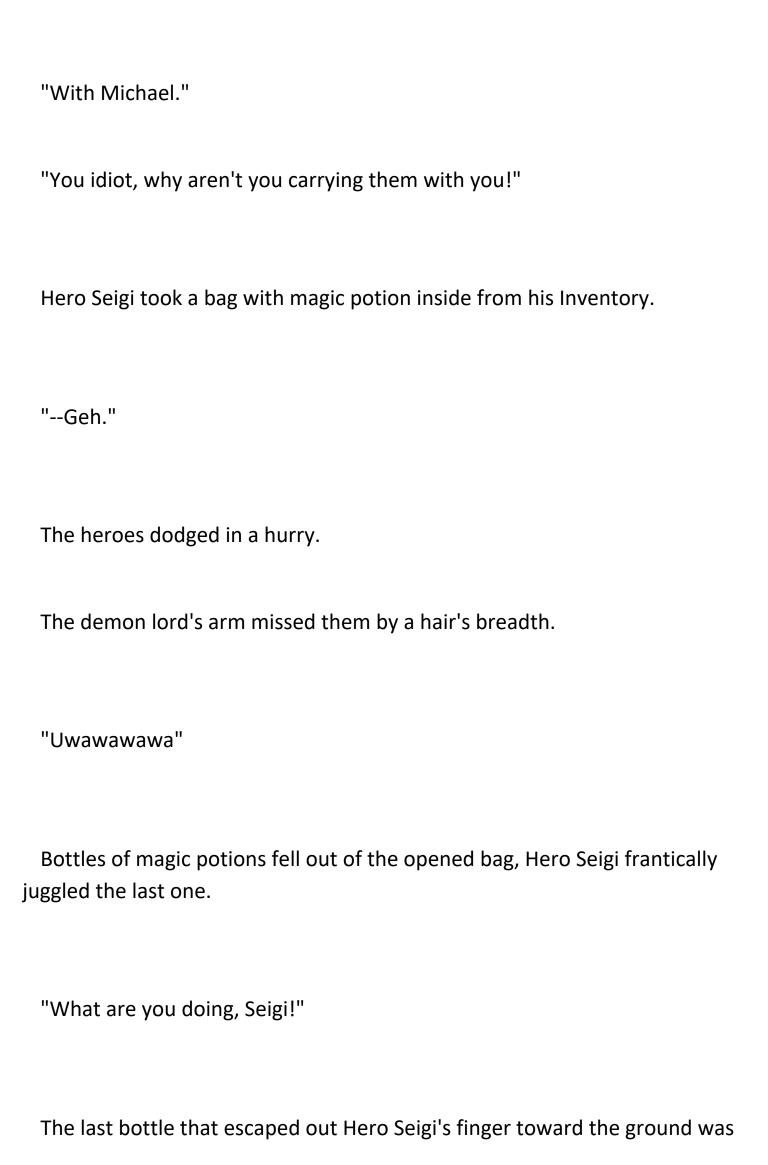
"Ouch ow ow, Yuuki you moron! You're making splinters flying here using explosion magic you're not good at!"

Seigi shouted and cursed as he got hit by small splinters.

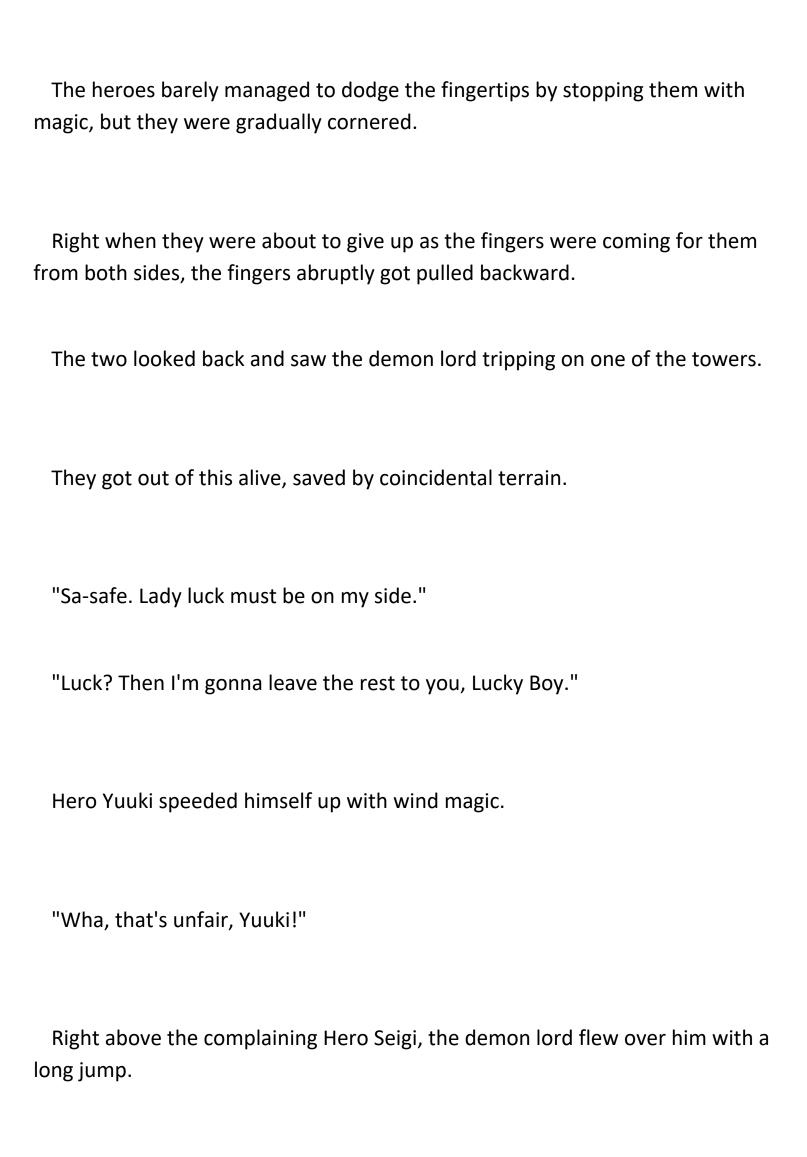
"Shut up! Better than eating a flying tower in the face!"

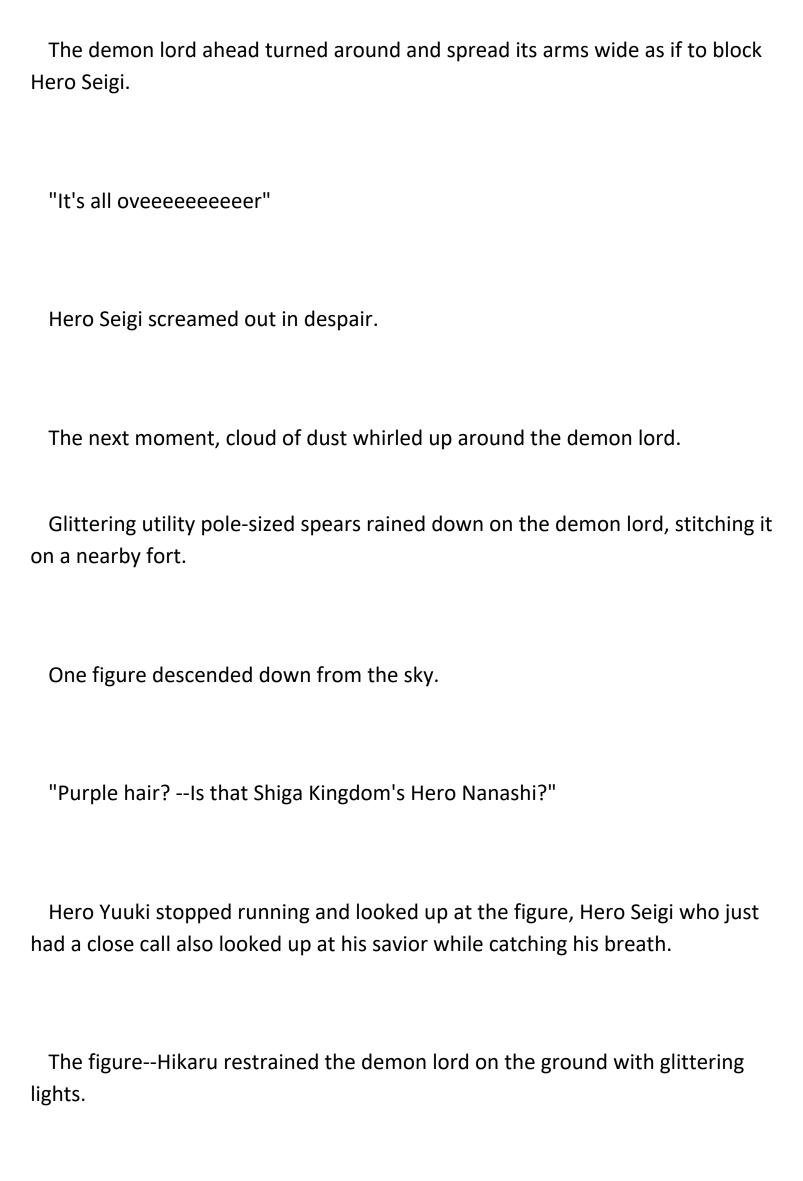
The demon lord drew nearer behind Hero Yuuki as he snapped back.







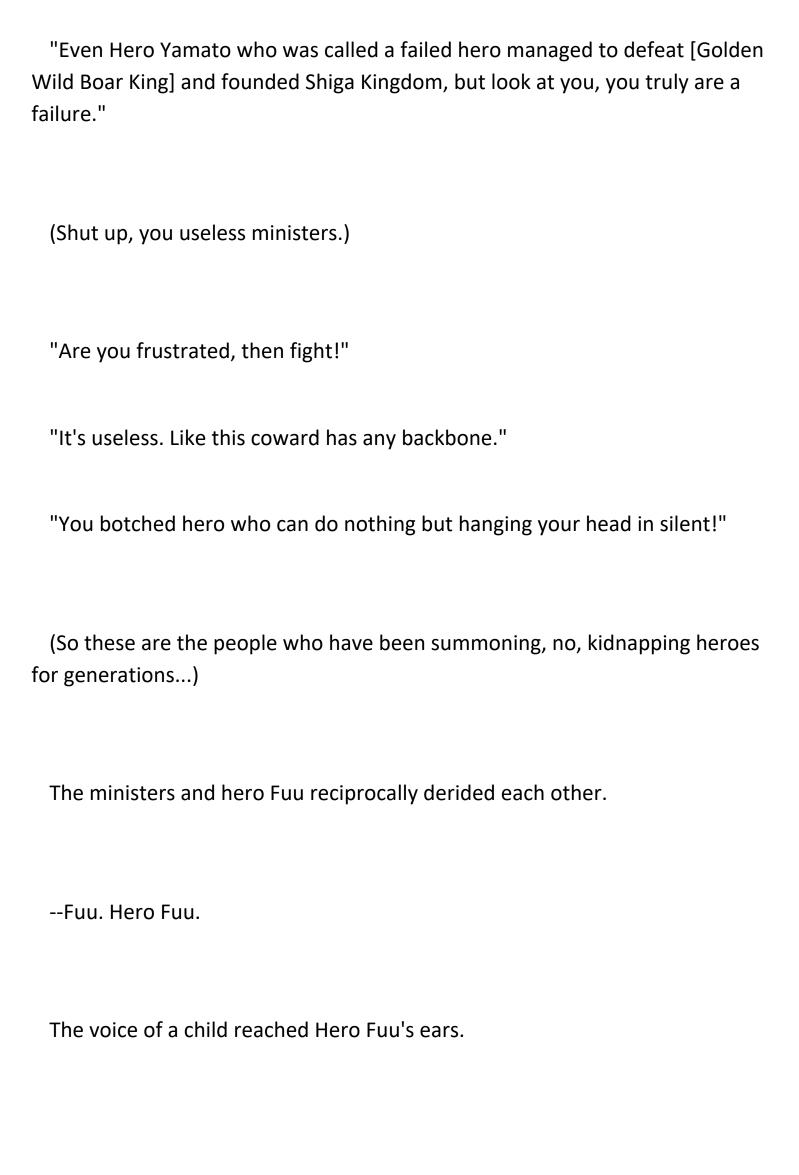


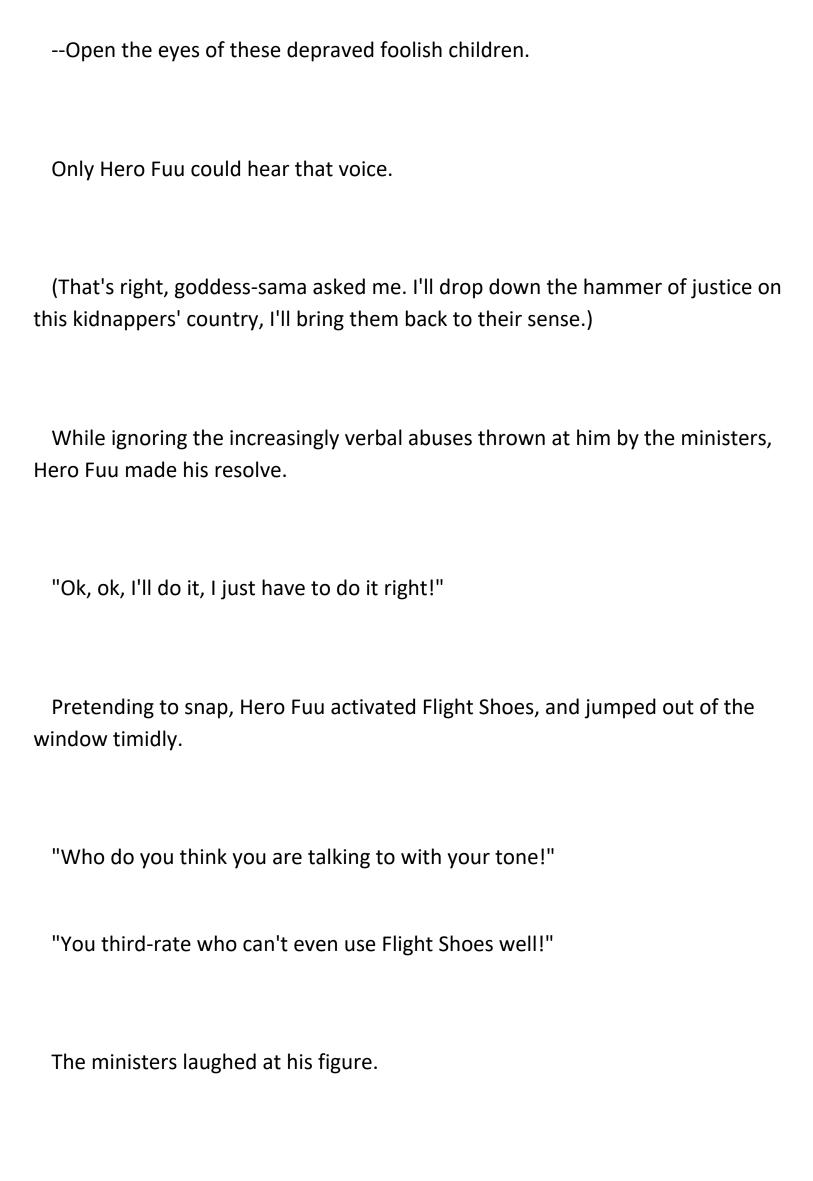


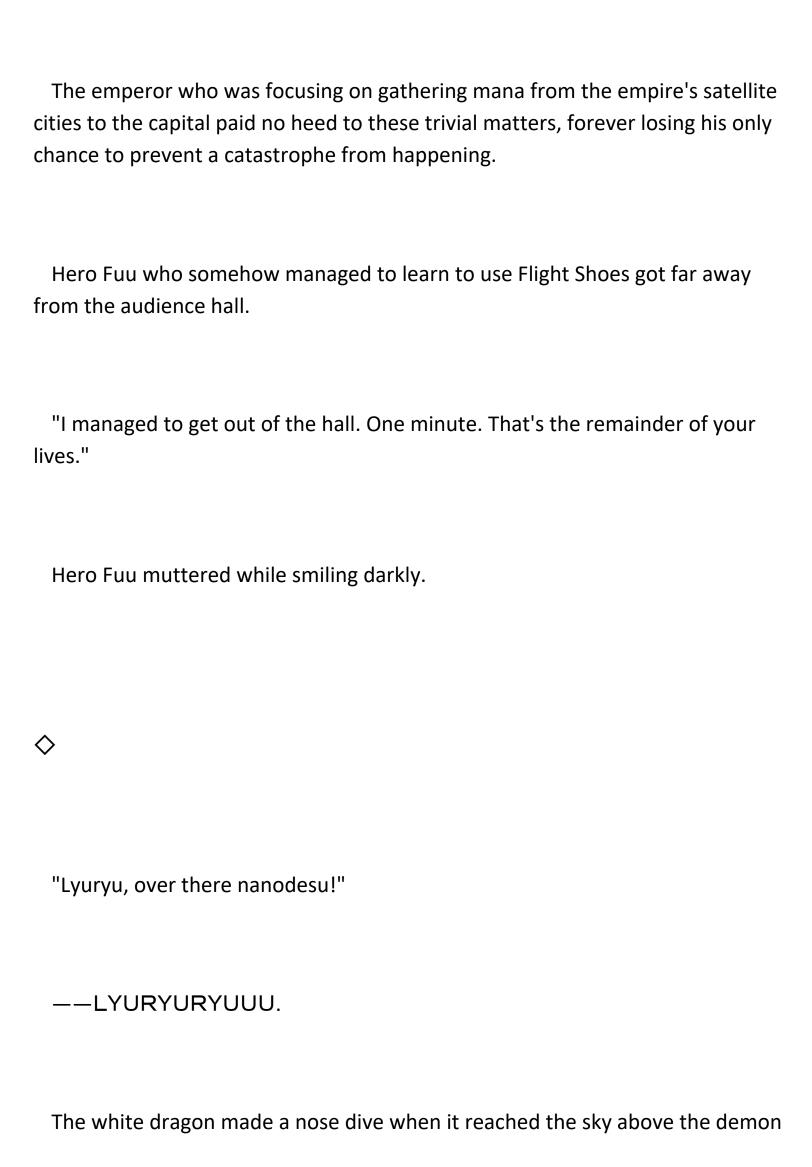




"The other two heroes are fighting out there, and all you do is just trembling over here!"
Hero Fuu who had missed his chance to get away from the audience hall was being overbearingly reproached by a young nobleman who was supposed to be his attendant.
Other ministers who noticed that began to take part in verbally abusing Hero Fuu.
(Weren't you guys that called me here. I never asked you to bring me here.)
Hero Fuu could only look downward in silent, but he was rebutting them furiously in his mind.
"You failure of a hero!"
(And you guys are failure of attendants.)

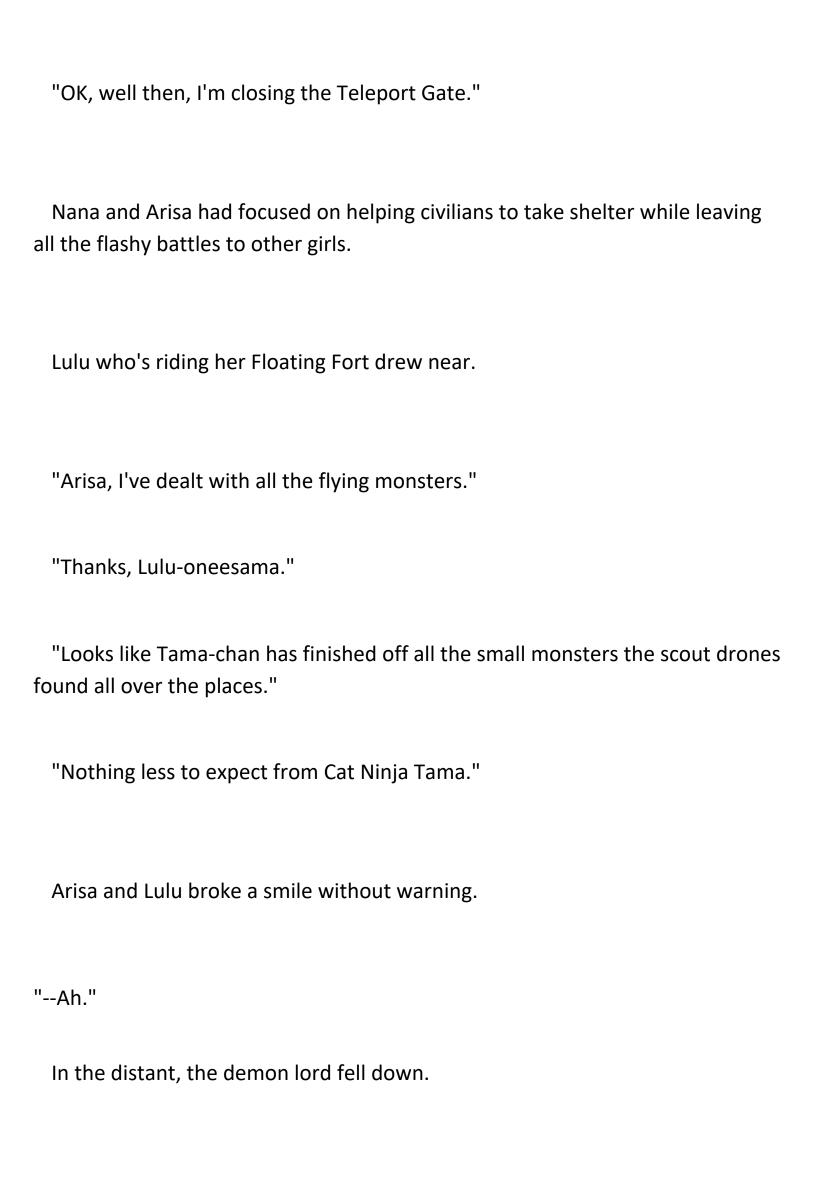












This minor revision for fighting demon lords, the Lesser Fenrir is pretty nice.

[Nn, great.]

[And, how's the demon lord?]

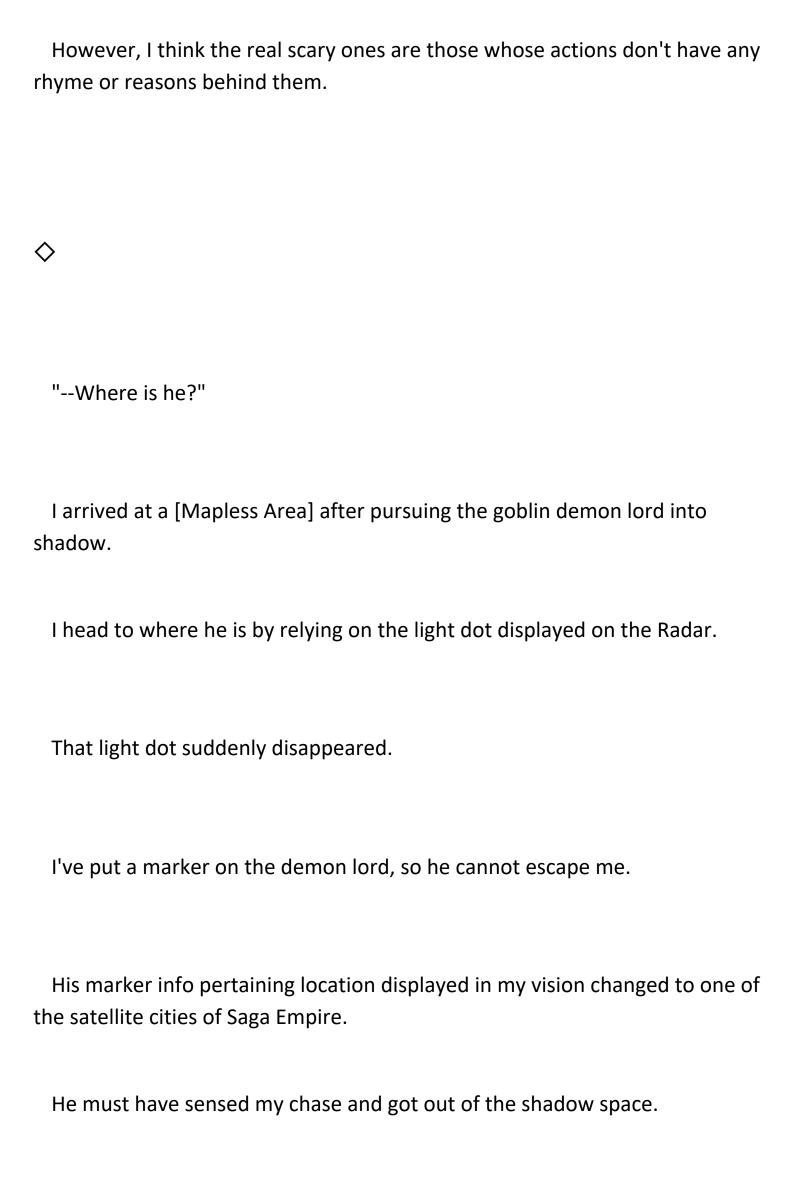
It doesn't seem to be reviving. The Dark Purple light got sealed off in a Talisman that Saga Empire's heroes carry with them.

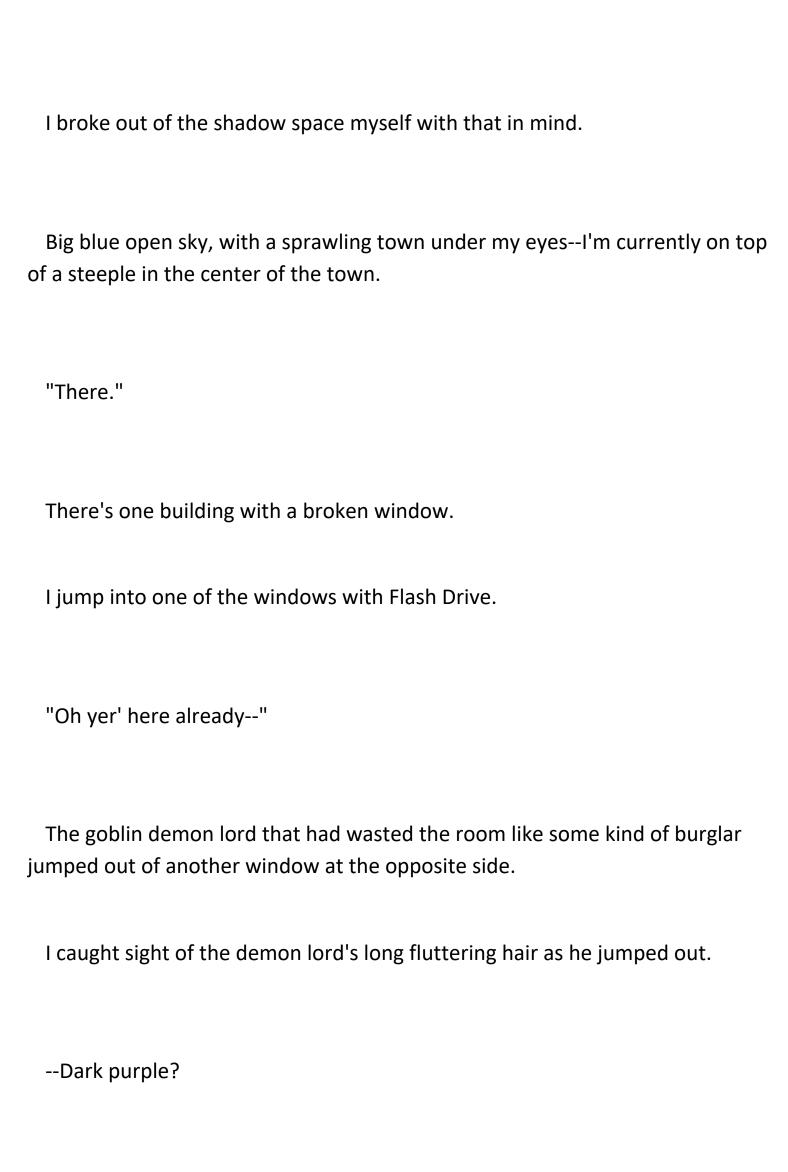
[Oh my, that was quite anti-climatic.]

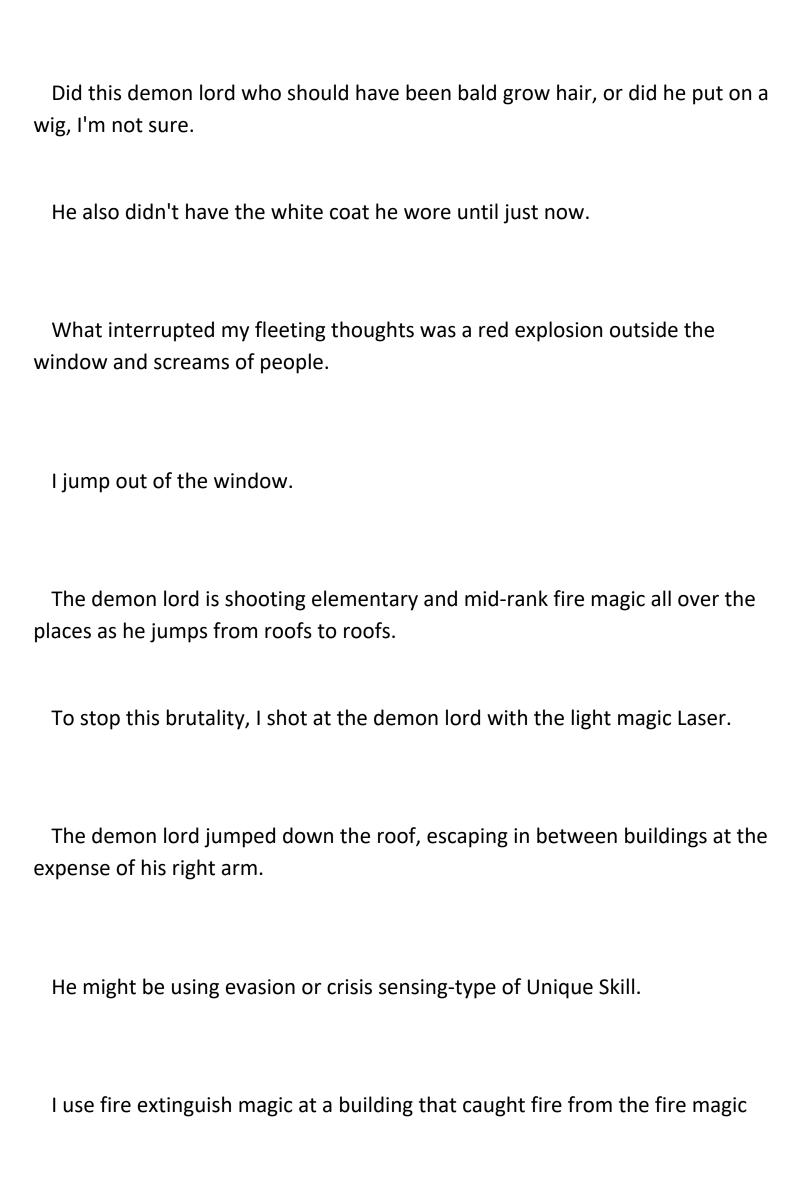
Arisa who heard report from Hikaru murmured in whisper, "Thought it would











the demon lord shot and grazed by the laser I shot.

I had weakened the laser's firepower to decrease collateral damage, but as it was a mid-rank magic, it still wasn't enough to prevent secondary damage.

After landing on the ground with Flash Drive, I chase after the demon lord who escaped behind buildings after buildings.

Apparently this demon lord possesses Ground Shrink skill himself, I can't catch up to him.

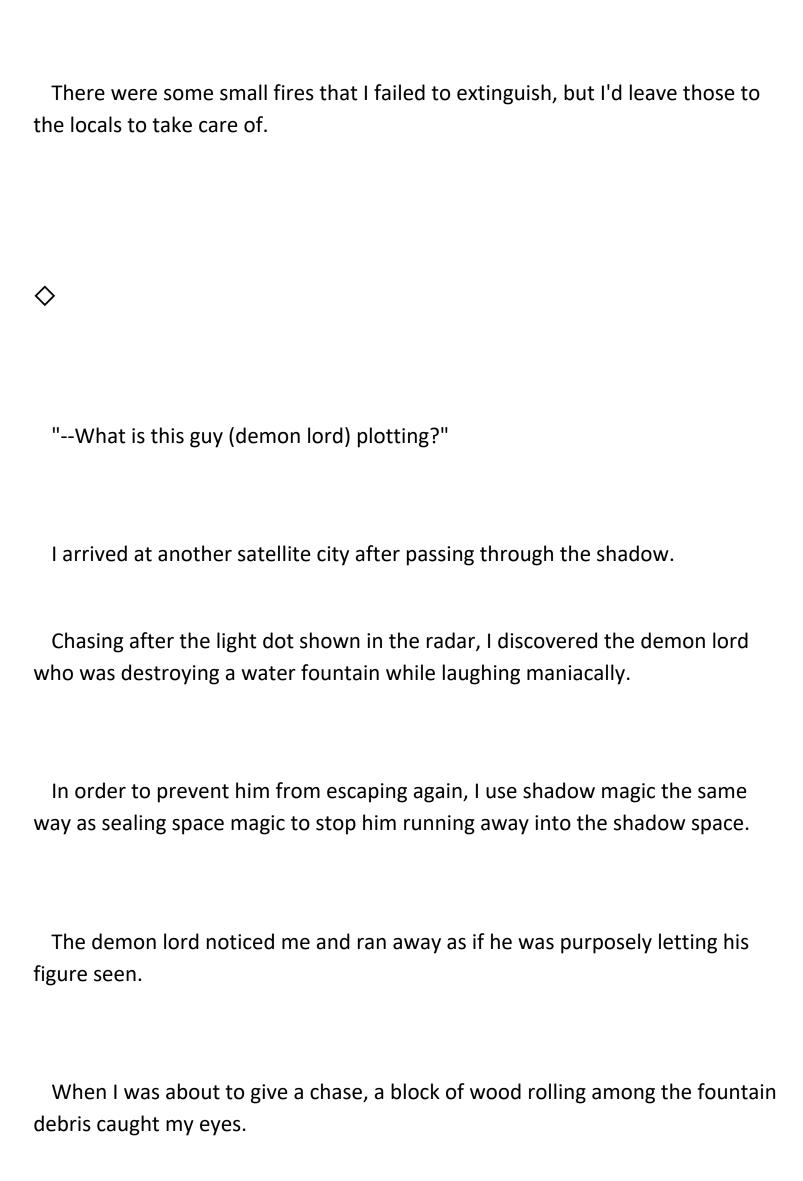
Moreover, he kept shooting out fire and explosion magic whenever he hid behind something.

The fact that he mixed in some delayed activation spells among those is really annoying.

After chasing him through two, three blocks all the while preventing damage, the demon lord fled into shadow once again.

--He's done with just setting fire?

I jumped into the shadow while having some doubts about the demon's lord action.



It's a barrel.
Scattered barrels that spread Vampire Mosquitoes around which brought upon the Vampire incident that destroyed Tokiswolk Kingdom flashed on my mind.
It's the same barrel.
I heard an explosion sound from afar.
Looks like the demon lord has started his destruction run again.
I isolated the debris of the destroyed fountain with space magic and sterilized it with fire magic.
These Vampire Mosquitoes eggs should turn into ashes after this much roasting.
The method is a bit rough, but I had to prioritize saving time here.

I went after the demon lord by tracing on the sounds of explosions.

Whenever I try to use teleport and pull-type space magic on him, he keeps getting away behind buildings using Ground Shrink during the slight window of time lag before activation of those magic. Sight-based Unit Arrangement is no different from Ground Shrink.

I would have never imagined that a Ground Shrink user who put everything into running away could be this troublesome.

The chase this time was easier than before since the demon lord was mainly using explosion magic and sound-only wind magic, thus there was no need for fire extinguishing and such.

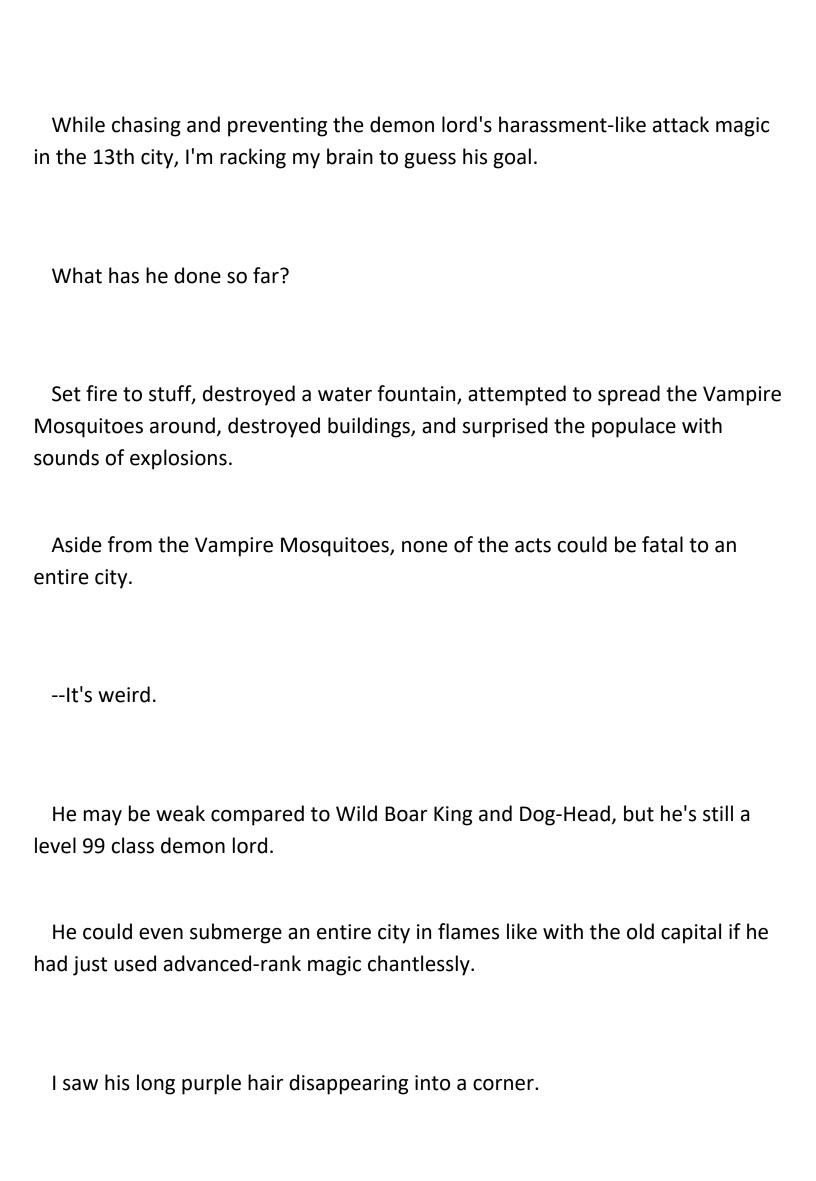
Just like earlier, after chasing the demon lord through several blocks of the city, he escaped into the shadow once again.

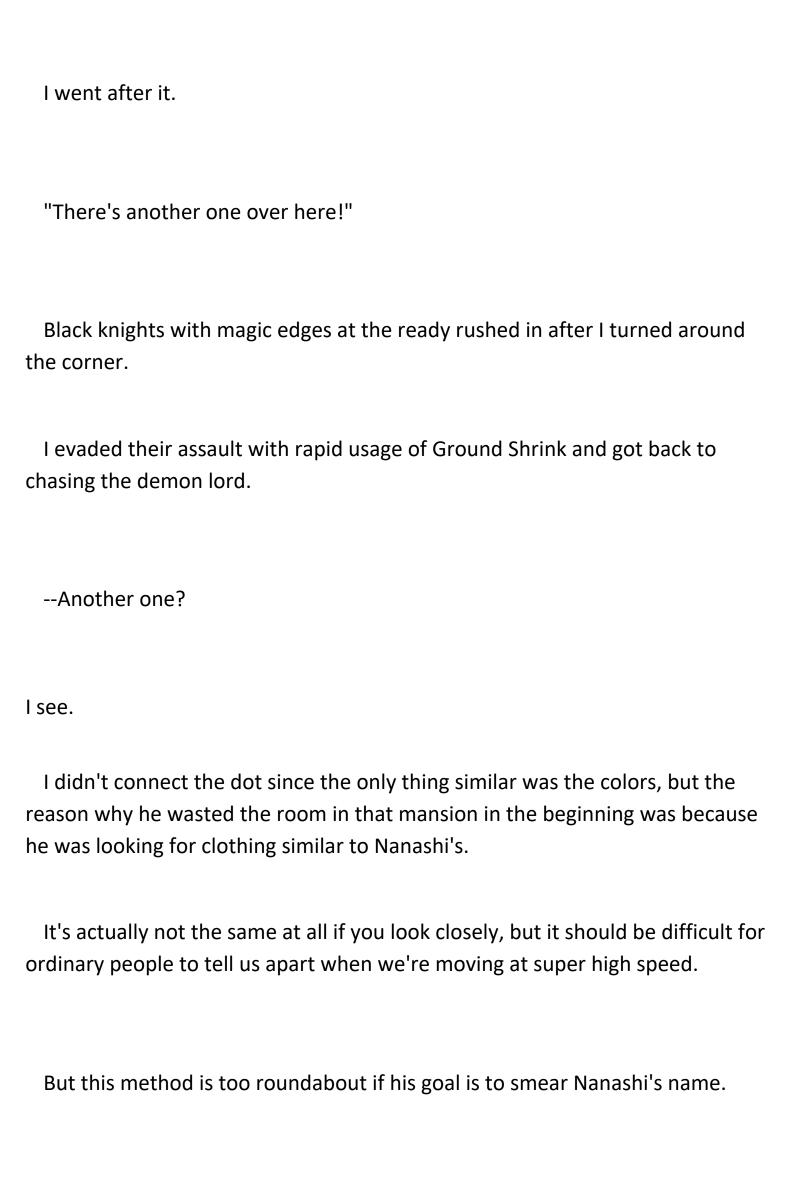
That's right, he escaped.

I didn't think that he could leap over the blockage I put with shadow magic.

Since I saw him got clad in purple light when he was diving into the shadow, it must have been some kind of Unique Skill.

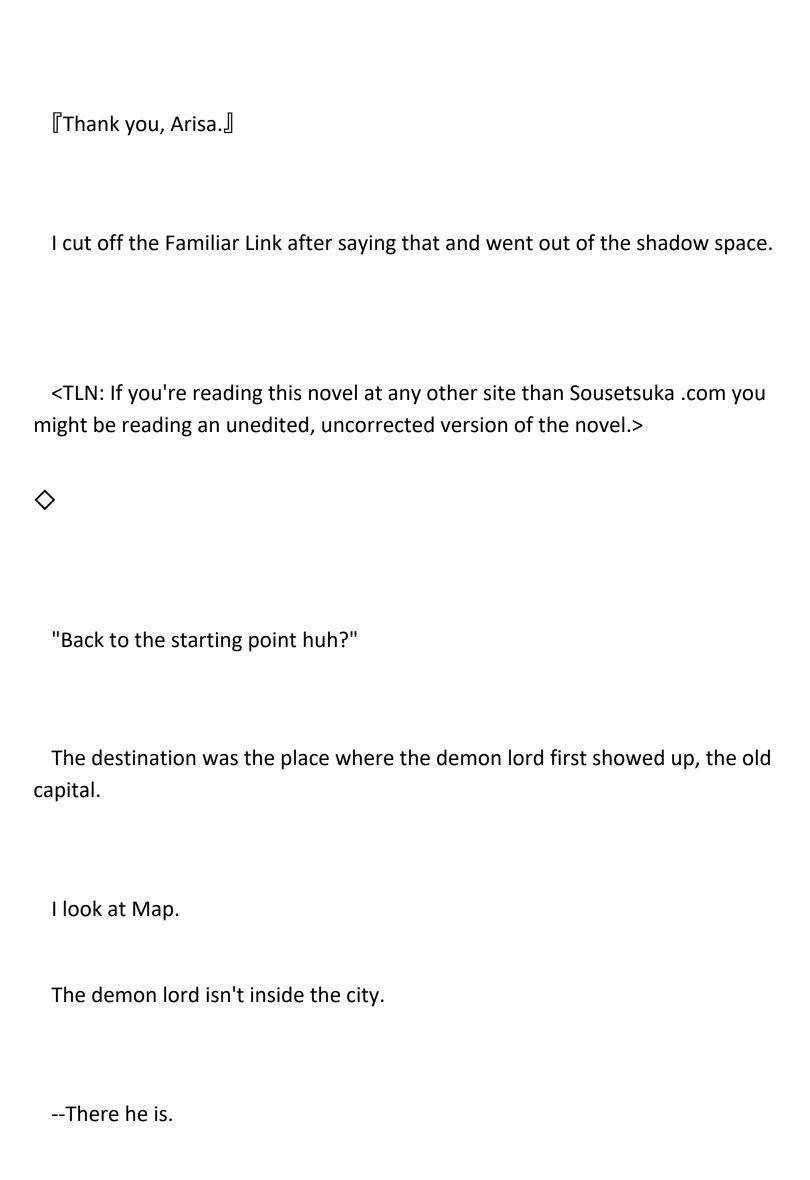
♦
I continued to chase after the demon lord for another five cities and two towns.
Once, I tried to encircle the demon lord using ninjutsu clones, but he immediately ran into shadow after noticing it, thus I abandoned any similar attempt onward.
But still, how far does he intend to flee.
No, wrong.
I noticed something odd.
Why would the Gob demon lord continue to run away when it's just an Avatar?
He could have just hopped onto another replaceable Avatar body if he wanted to, what would be the point of running away without doing so.



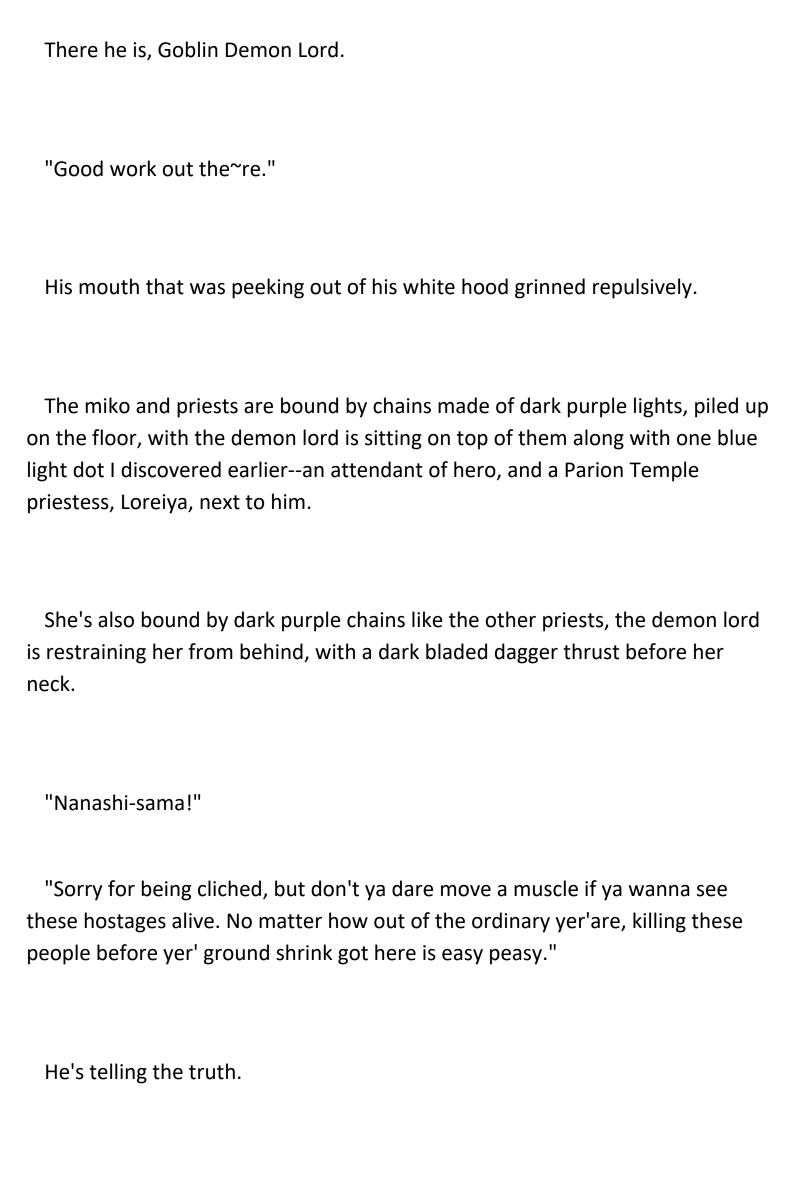


He could have just dispatched homonculi in my attires to every cities, he didn't need to go out of his way and drag me along.
I'm growing more irritated at myself who can't figure out this demon lord's ploy.
I saw the demon lord looking here with a grin and sneer on his face for an instant.
While enduring the impulse to attack him with the fast-moving light magic, I used Ground Shrink.
The demon lord escaped into shadow once again when I was just one step away from him.
I dived into the shadow while getting irritated.
Don't go after him.
I felt like I heard a faint youthful voice while I was entering the shadow.
Trap.

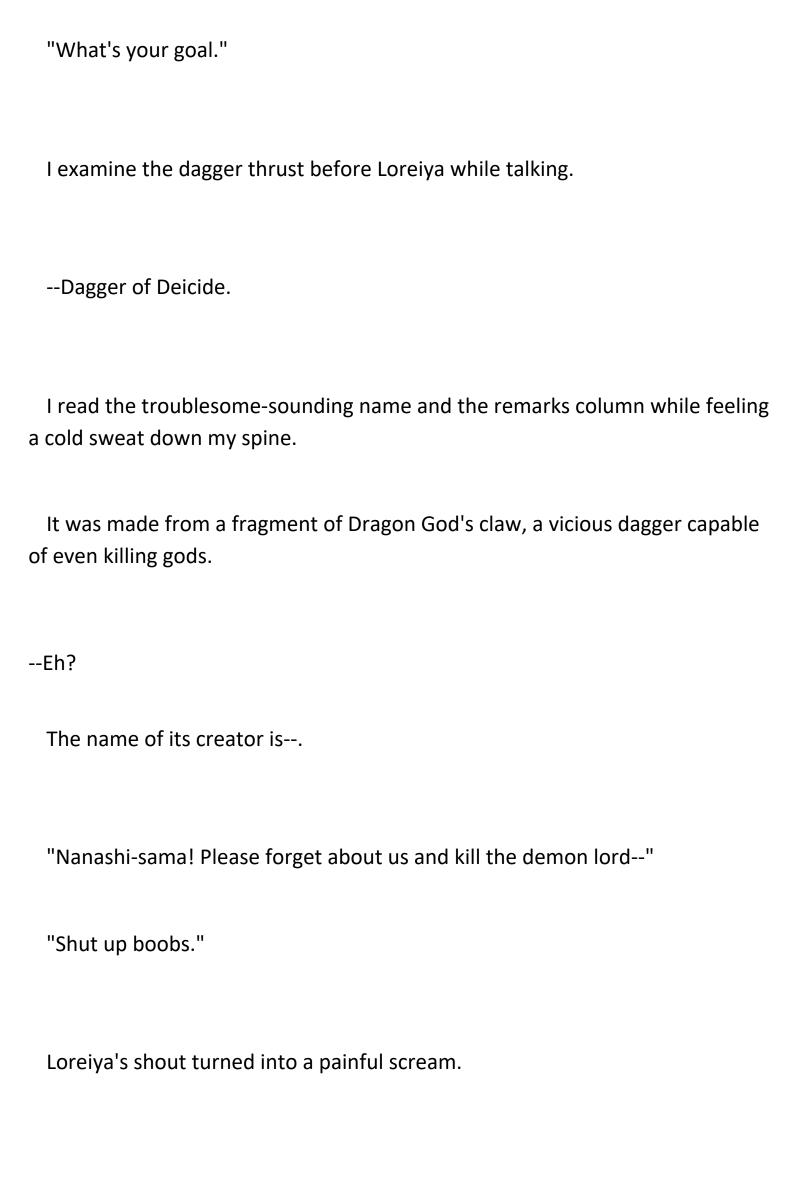




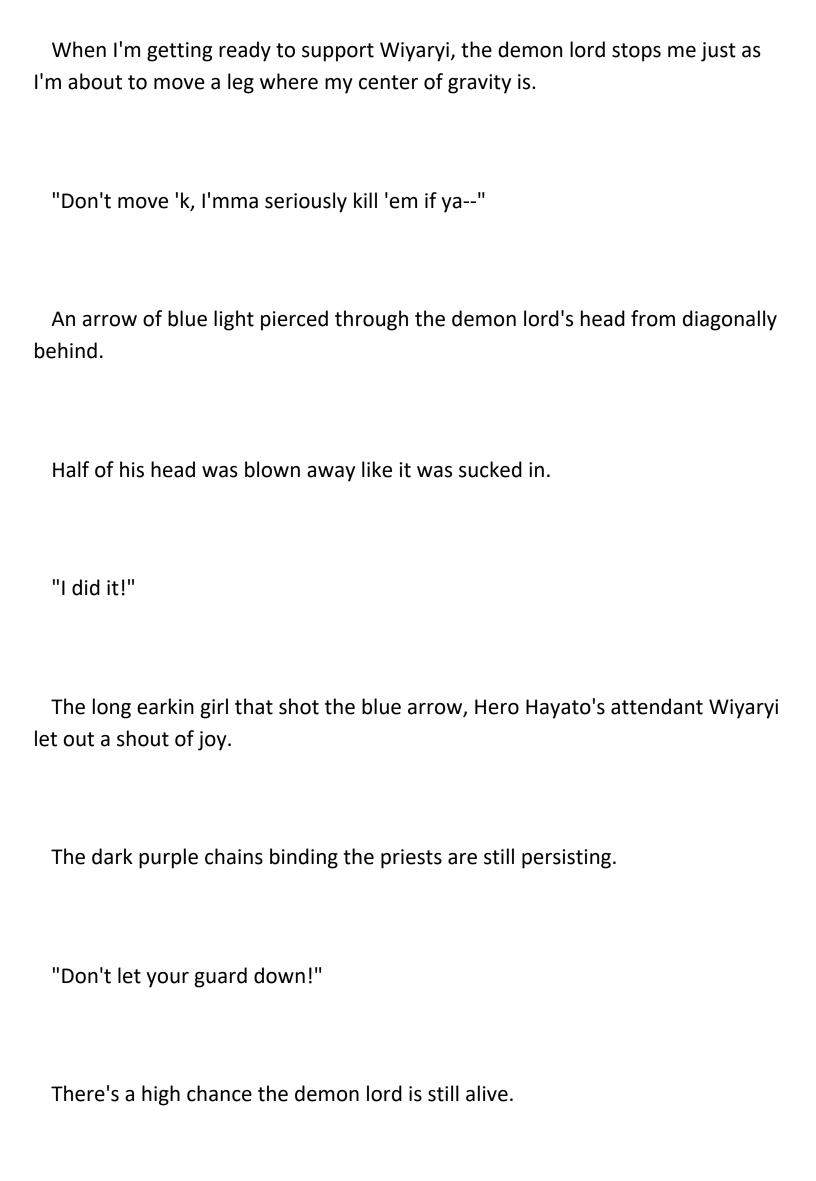
He's in the [Hill of Heroes] located in the old capital's suburb.
This hill with a nice view is an ancient temple where god Parion's miracle, [Heroes Summoning], get performed.
The magic circle is active?
The mana accumulated in a giant magic facility under the hill's ground is flowing into the magic circle laminated on the temple's ceilings and pillars, it feels like it's about to get started.
Of course it is
Inside the temple that was usually devoid of people besides the custodian, miko and priests of Parion Temple along with two blue dots that signify my acquaintances are present.
While feeling slightly impatient, I close in on the ancient temple where the demon lord is with Flash Drive.

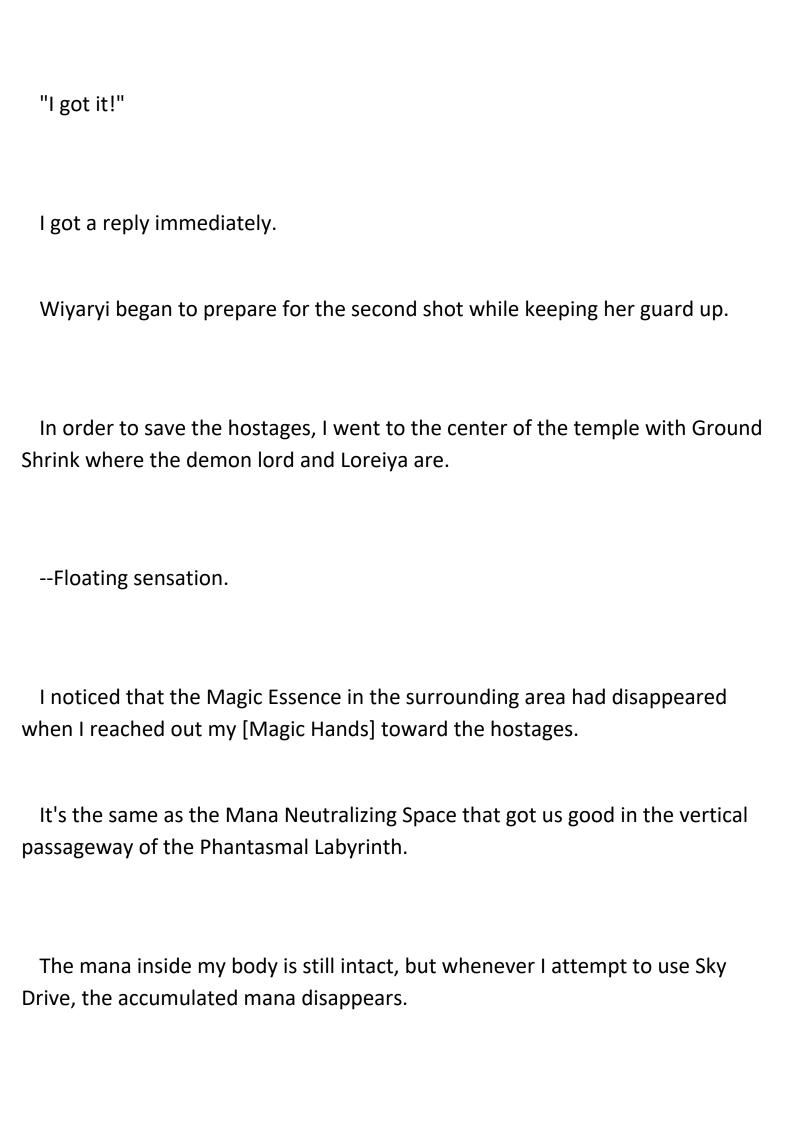


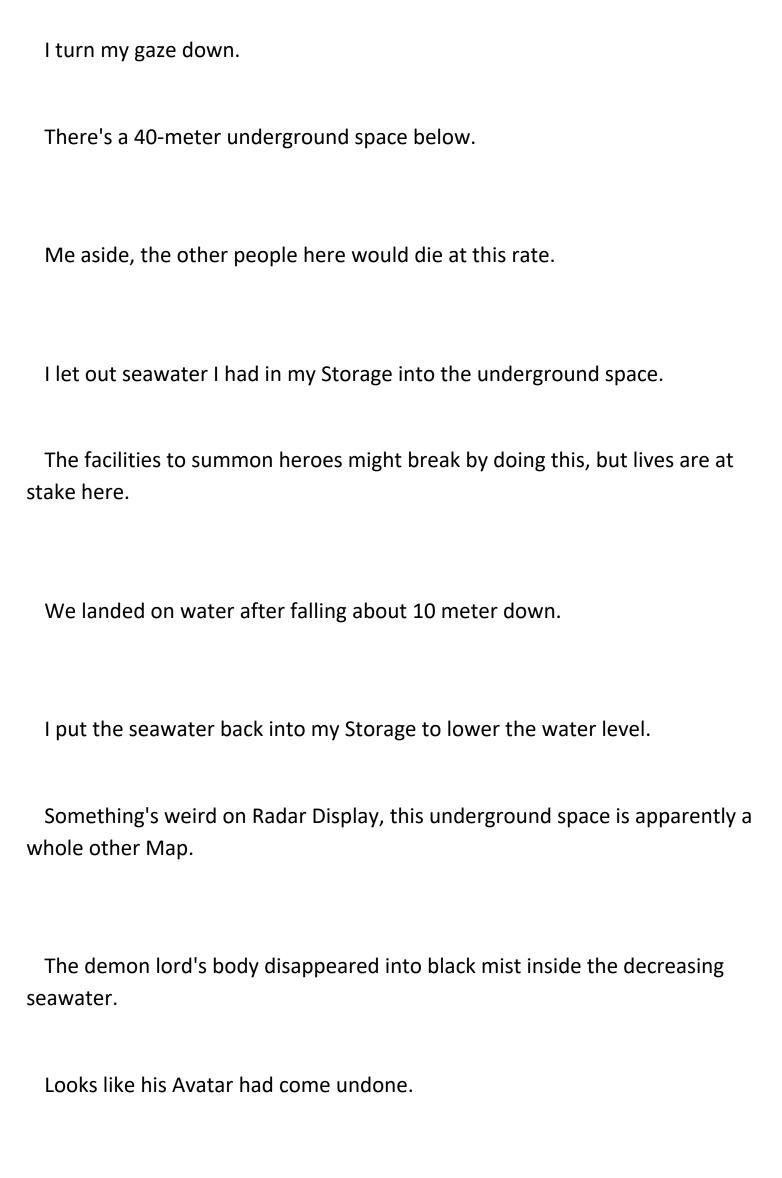
That dagger is bad news.
It's giving off a more dangerous vibe than the demon lord himself.
I put markers on everyone with Map Search.
Same like how I did during the incident at the old capital, I use space magic < <aport an="" object="">> toit failed?</aport>
"It's the Unique Skill version of yer' Space Magic Sealing magic y'see. A goblin am 's a weakling, but I got lotsa slots for Unique Skills, been real helpful."
The demon lord boasted.
The goblin demon lord living in Selbira Labryint's lowest layer, Yuika, had 13 Unique Skills, but I don't believe that it's a characteristic of goblins.
However, considering the many Unique Skills this guy has used thus far, the claim that he possesses as many Unique Skills as Yuika might not be necessarily a lie.



The demon lord grabbed her breast and forcefully silenced her.
Loreiya meaningfully turned her line of sight toward the right interior for an instant.
I nodded back lightly to hide it from the demon lord.
There is another blue dot over there.
The other blue dot I found alongside Loreiya earlier, an attendant of Hero Hayato, The long earkin archer, Wiyaryi.
I peer at her while being careful as to not draw attention.
She's readying her bow while hiding in the shadow with some kind of stealth skill.
She's holding a longbow made of sapphire-like blue crystalline substance at the ready.
The arrow set on the longbow is clad in holy blue lightthat's a holy weapon not unlike holy swords that was displayed in the Museum of Heroes.







At the same time, the dark purple chains binding the priests also vanished.

Without minding her wet hair and clinging clothes, priestess Loreiya went to operate a control panel located in a small tower at the center of the underground space.

Looks like the Mana Neutralizing space has been lifted off, not sure when.

Since there were many that got hurt during the landing, I treated them with advanced-rank water magic. The priests take too long to chant their healing magic after all.

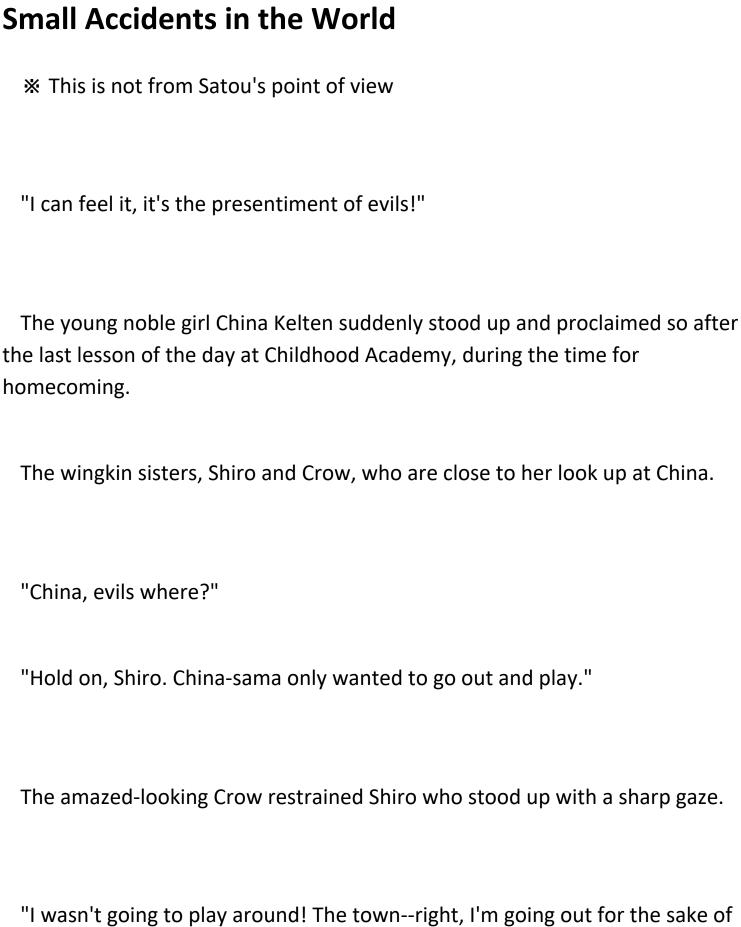
I used All Map Exploration just in case, but it appears there is neither a hidden door nor a hidden room in this space.

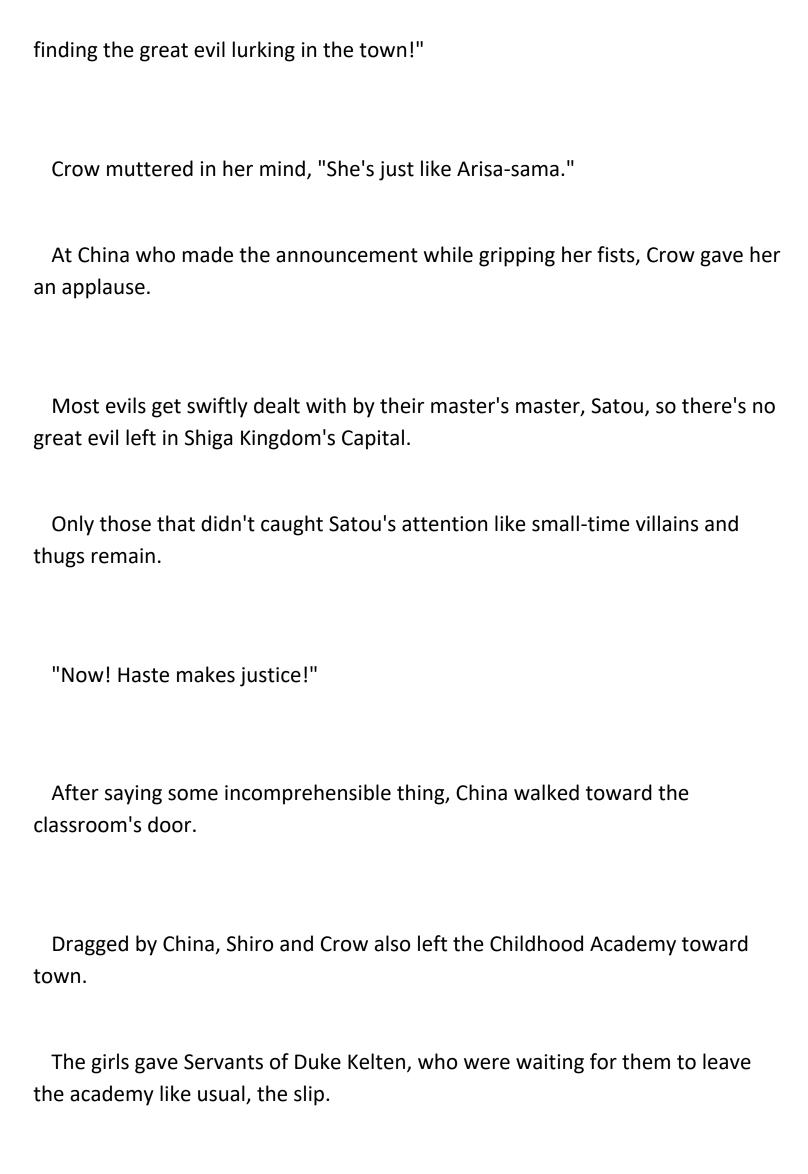
"Nanashi-sama, the summoning magic circle that was in the midst of activation has gone out of control! At this rate, it will continue to summon heroes from another world until the lives and mana of everyone in the old capital have been exhausted up!"

Is this what the demon lord had been scheming?

I ran to the control panel to prevent the worst-case scenario.

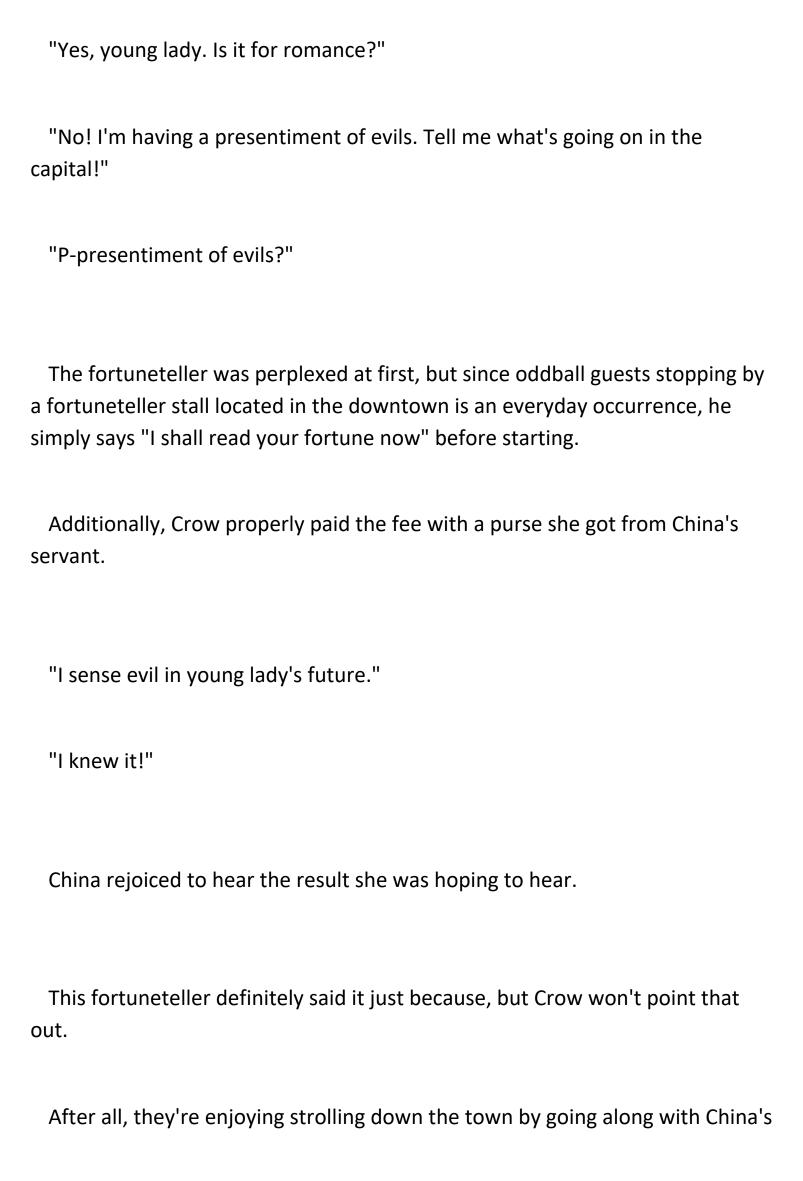
16-72. Intermission: The House-Sitting Team and Small Accidents in the World

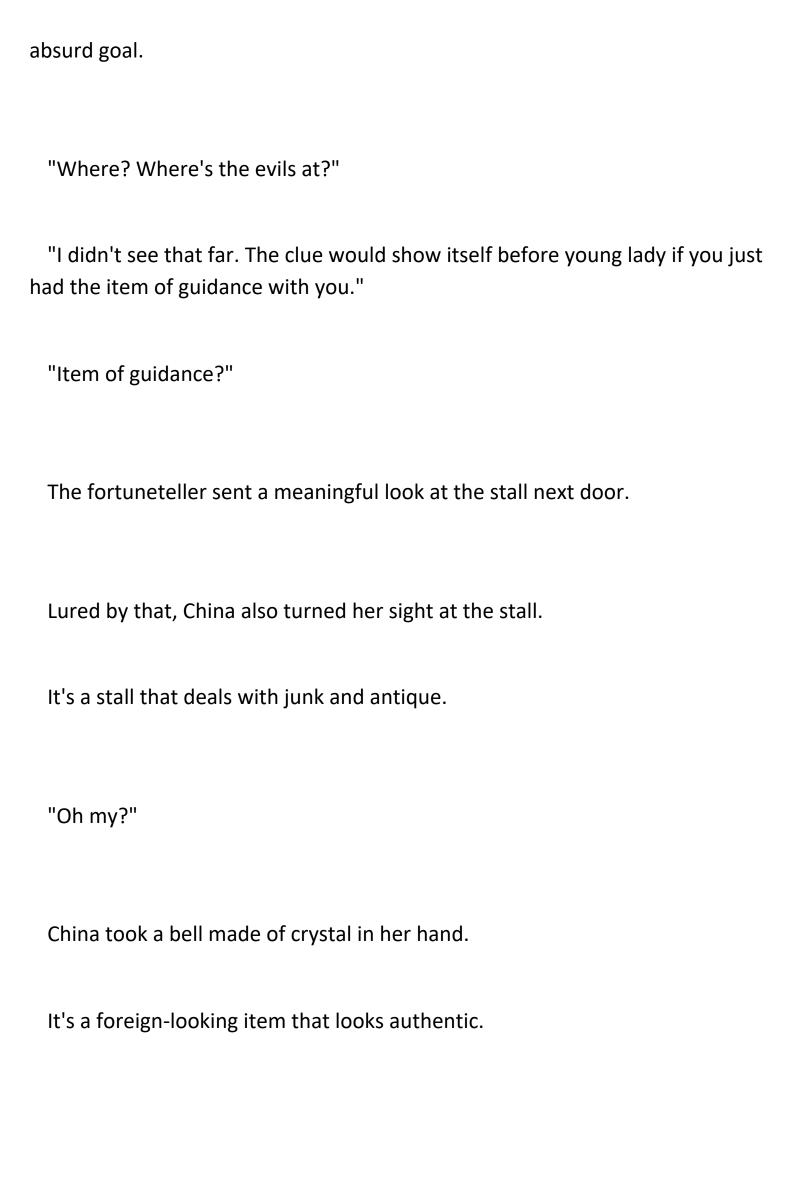


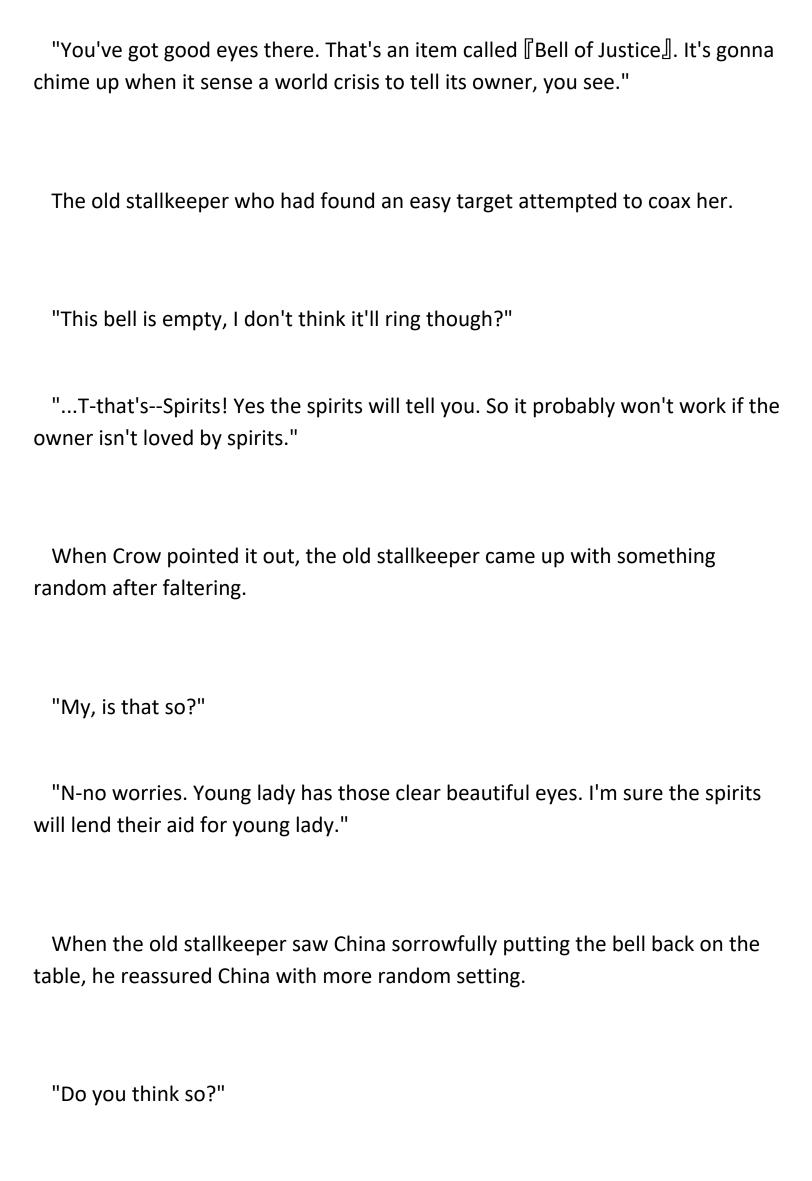


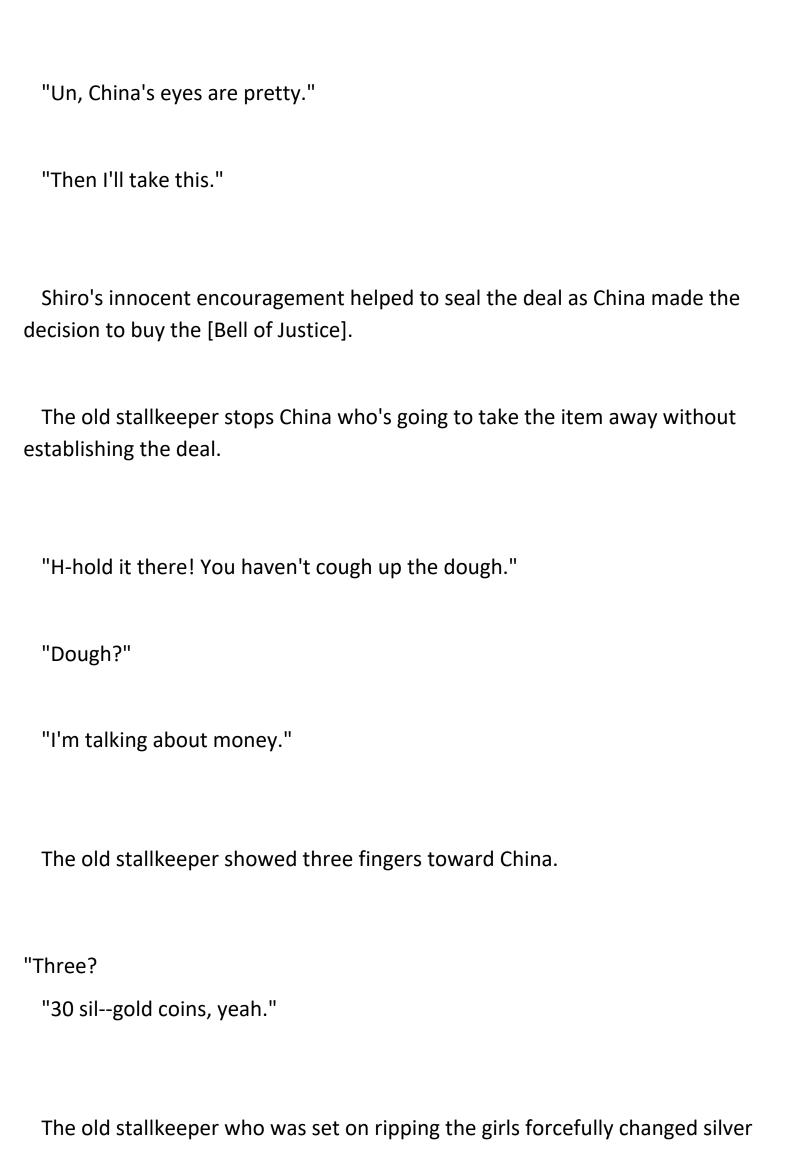


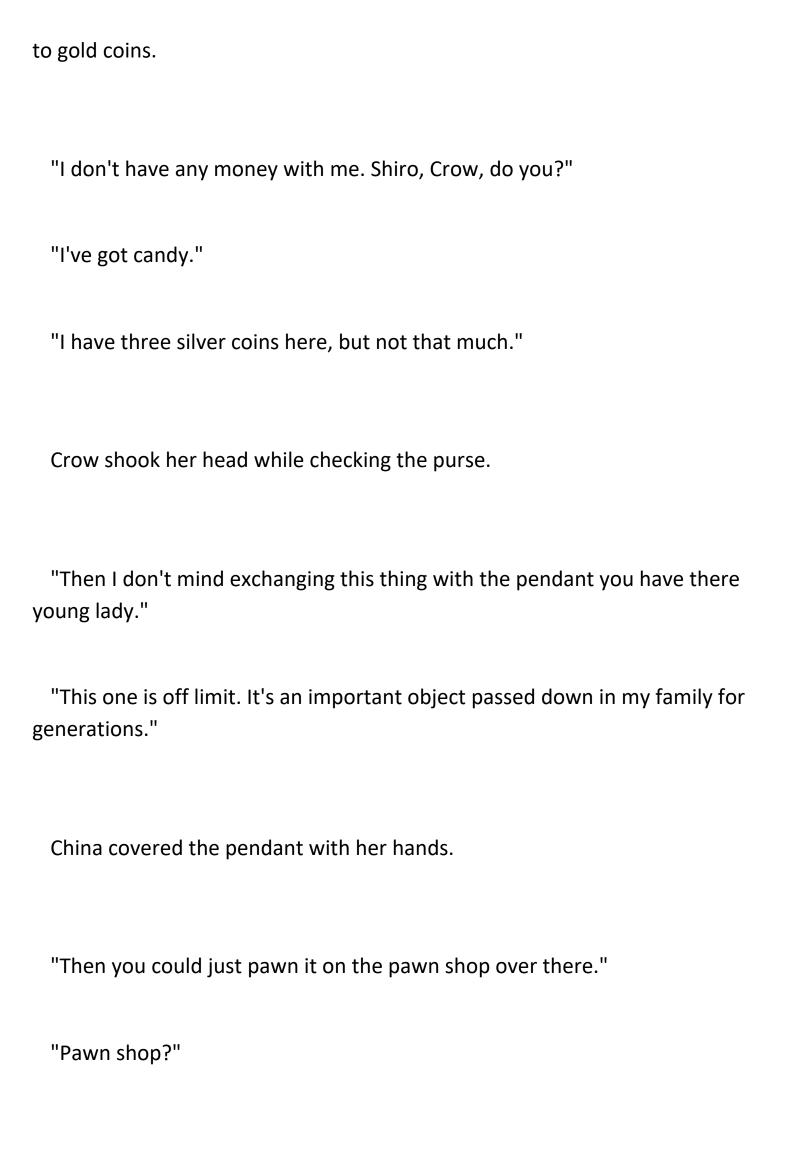












"Yea, pawn shop."

To China who didn't get how Pawn Shops work, the old stallkeeper gave an explanation, "If you let them keep your pendant, they'll give you money and a pawn ticket. Use the money to buy the [Bell of Justice], later you give the pawn ticket to your family and get the pendant back."

"I got it."

"--Eeh. Are you sure, China-sama?"

"Of course."

Crow tried to stop China in a hurry, but she lost to China's momentum who energetically charged toward the pawn shop.

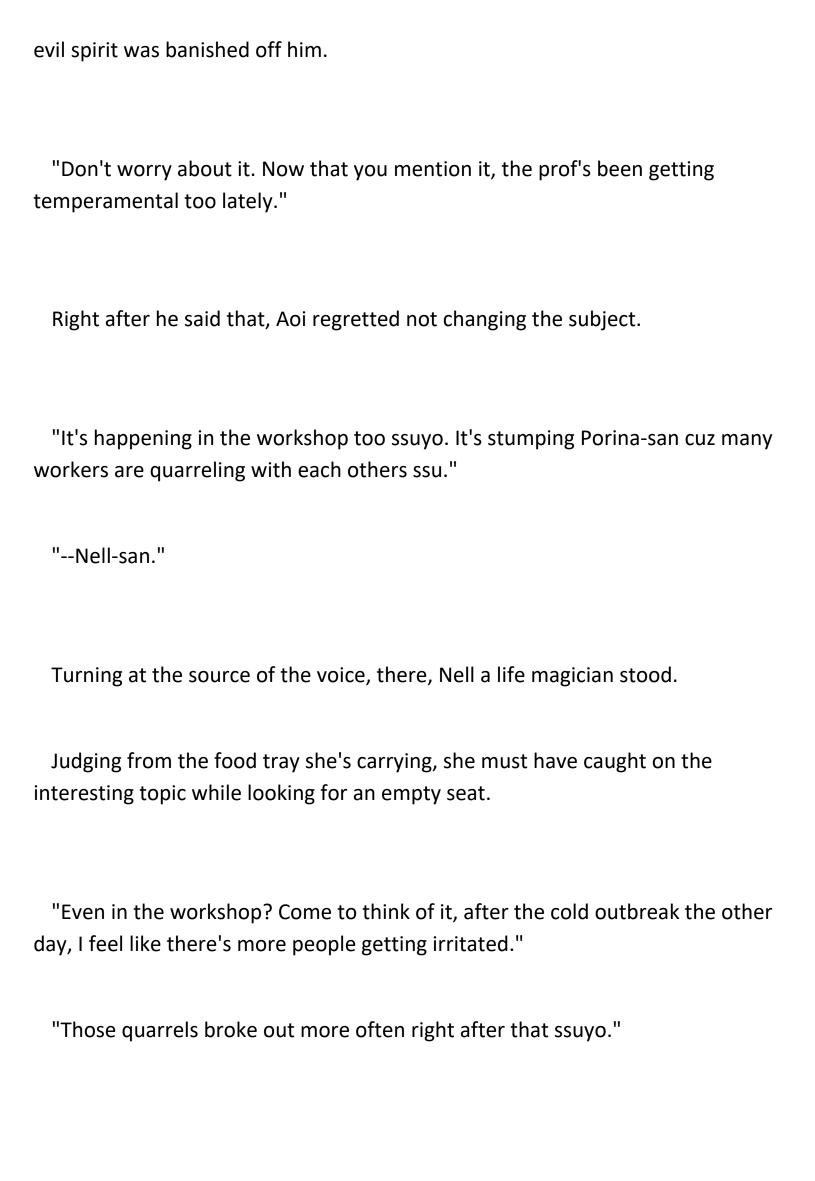
A few minutes later, China was holding the [Bell of Justice] while looking pleased as she walked down the street.

No one knows whether the three who managed to successfully rip off an easy target ended the note with a celebratory toast.

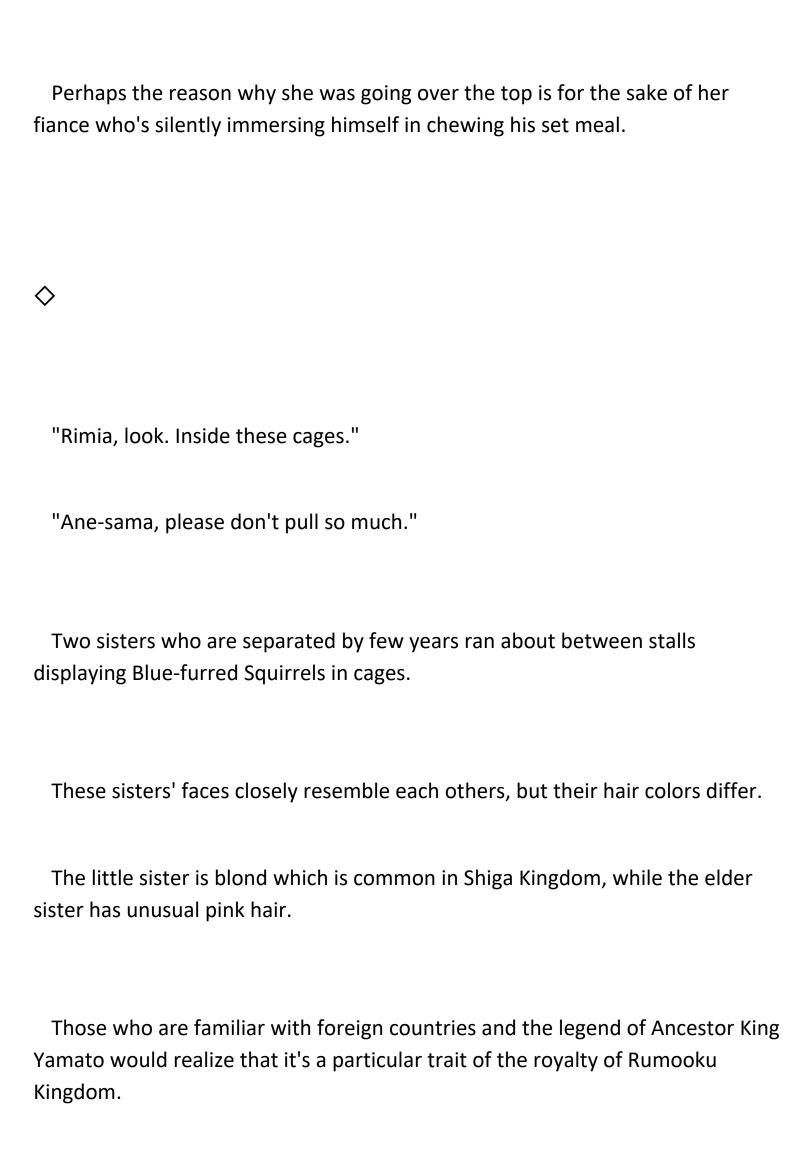
Just know that, after China and the girls left, one of the people who were watching over the girls went to check things up with the pawn shop.

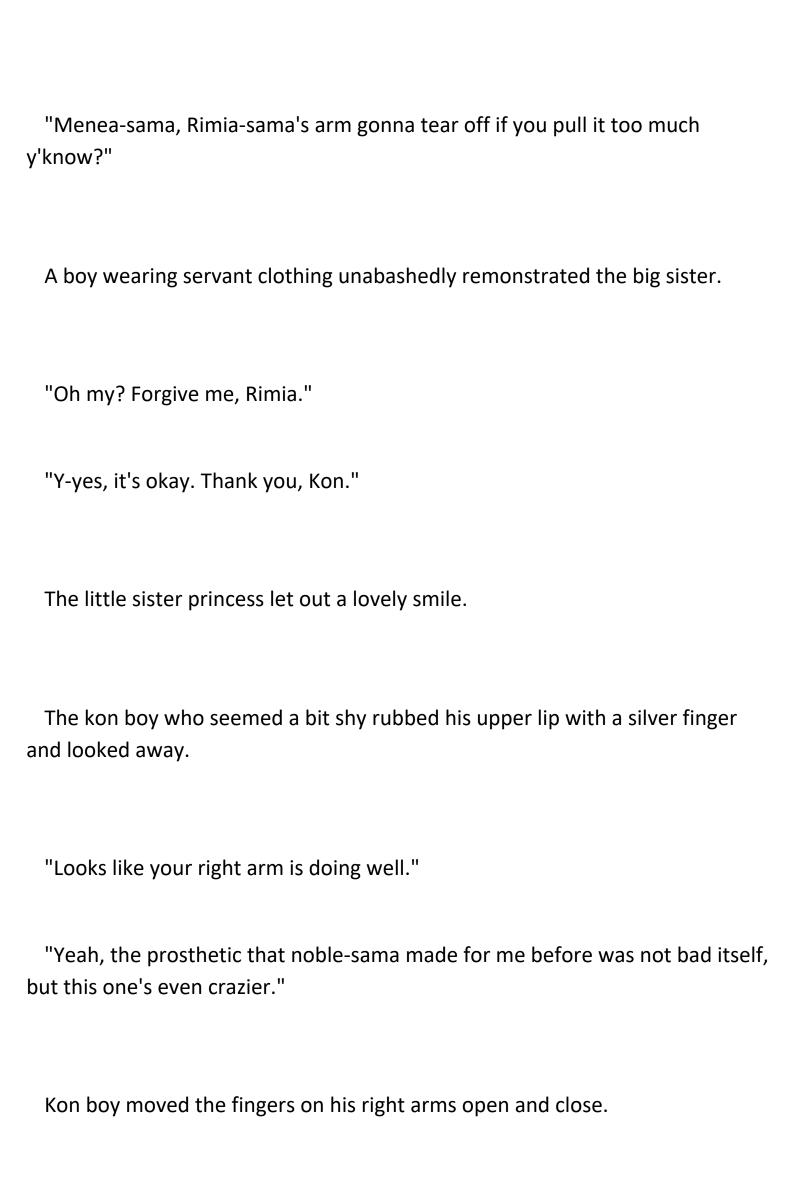






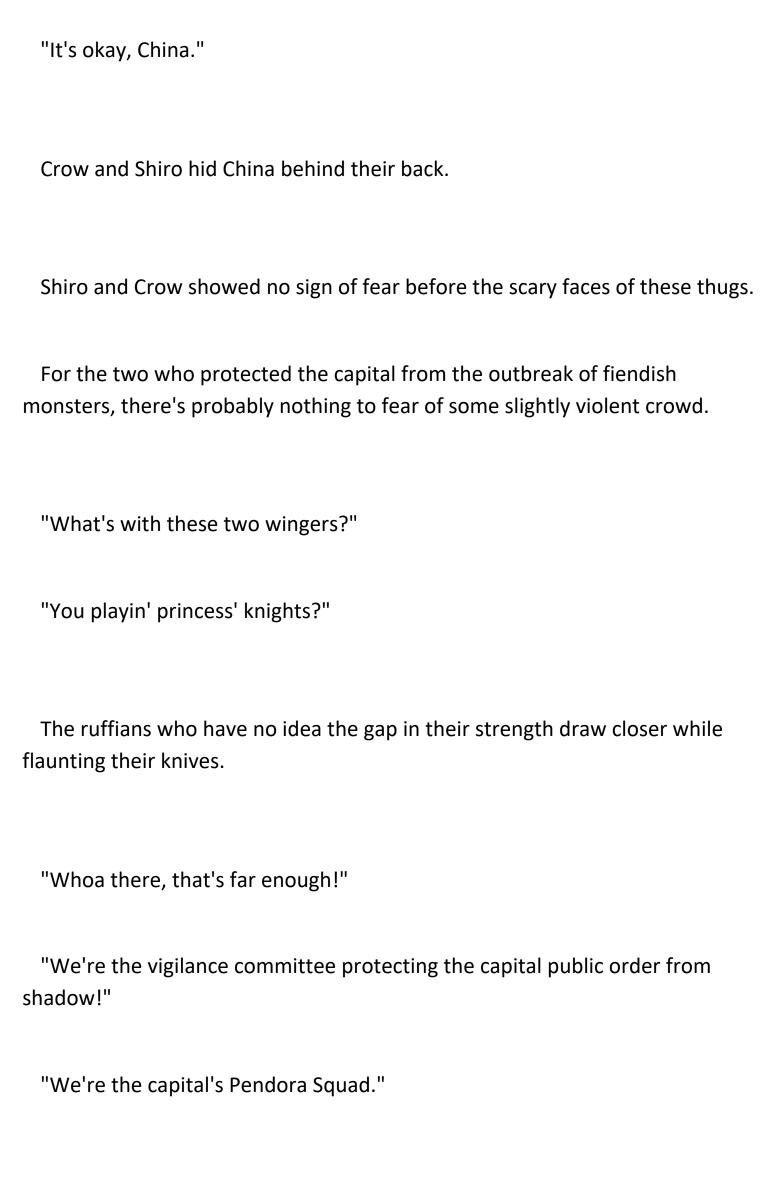


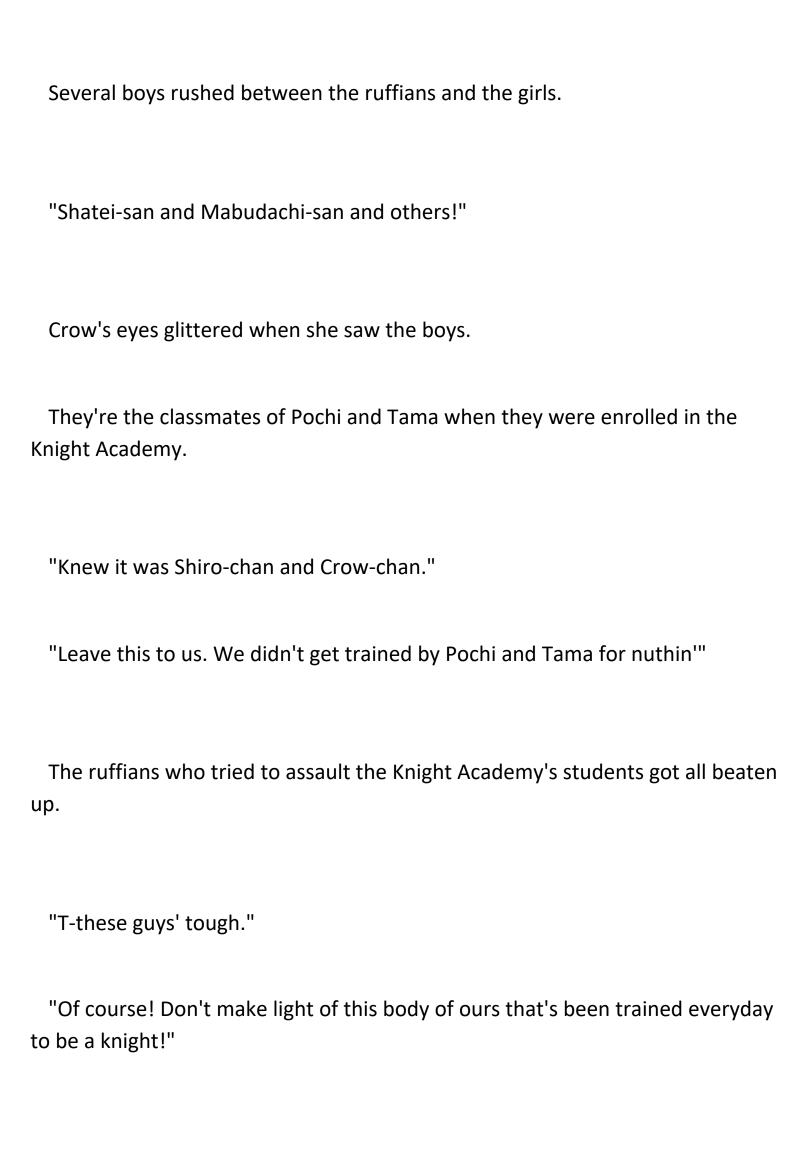




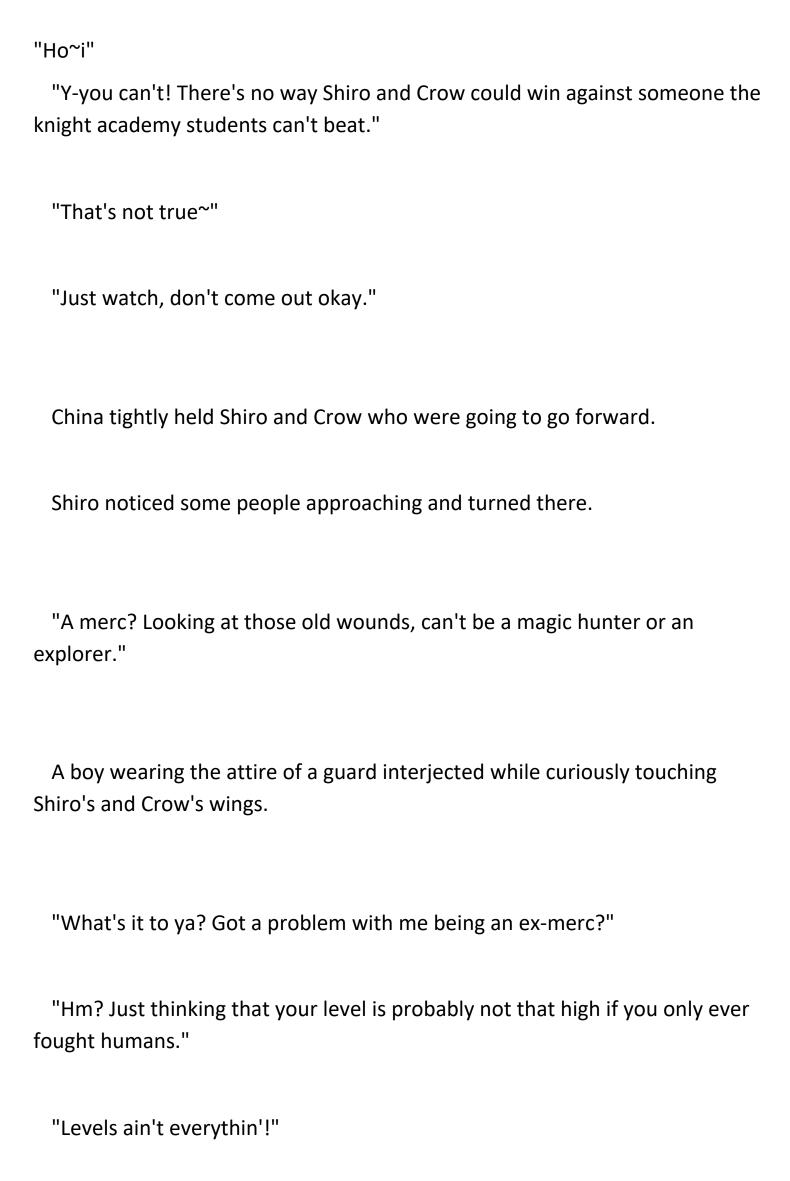
It's moving more agile than a normal arm. It's an artificial arm called Monitor created by Echigoya Firm, a golem artificial arm made of mithril alloy supplied by Satou. Kon boy was advised to regenerate his arm with magic potion, but he chose the artificial arm route as it would prove handy in protecting Princess Rimia he's serving. Next to the two sisters who are watching the Blue-furred Squirrels in harmony, Kon boy surveys his surroundings to fulfill his duty as their escort. His eyes found a seed of trouble. "Owww!" The man jumps up and down while holding his toe, obviously faking it.







"You're wide open, brats."
A man who had an aura like that of a veteran warrior came out of a back alley and kicked away a tigerkin knight academy student.
He pulled the sword on his waist and easily parried other students' swords.
"Lieutenant!"
"Hehe, now that Lieutenant's here, yer' all done for."
The ruffians livened up.
"You guys, it's spanking time later. Hell you're doin' getting toyed around by these brats."
The man glared at the ruffians while showing off his scar-filled face and arms.
"Arara~"
"I'll take care of this, Shiro, protect China-sama."



Kon boy easily stepped away from the ex-merc's heavy slash.

This heavy slash from a former mercenary was actually at the level of an expert already, but to Kon boy who learned the basics from a former member of Shiga Eight Swords, Sir Trell, it was not fast enough to lose sight of.

He easily dodged the second and third slashes.

"Kon! Stop playing around and beat him."

The elder one of the two sisters who caught up behind the boy gave an order.

"Eeh, but this is a good chance to get some training in anti-personnel battle."

"Don't underestimate me, you brat!"

The ex-merc unleashes a one-handed sword finisher.

It's the ex-merc's certain-kill finisher that has managed to fell a great number of people in battlefield.



Chiming sound of a bell reached the ears of the relieved girls and boys.

The sound came from China's [Bell of Justice] that shouldn't have been capable of producing sound.